Condensed Edition

Progress Survey of Deregulatory Initiatives by Government of Alberta Departments and Agencies

February 1985

Caucus Committee on Economic Affairs
Government of Alberta

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Note respecting the Condensed Edition:

This shortened edition of the Progress Survey contains pages selected from the original report and reprinted unchanged. Hence, some cross-references in this condensed edition will refer to pages or chapters in the original document.

Additional copies of this Condensed Edition, or of the complete report:

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INTRODUCTION

The Speech from the Throne on March 15, 1984, indicated the Government's intention to emphasize five priority areas, one of which is deregulation:

> A government-wide effort is being made to reduce or eliminate unnecessary or obsolete regulations which frustrate or complicate the lives of our citizens, as well as the operations of businesses - some of which will lead to legislative proposals for the Assembly.

This Progress Survey is an attempt to expand upon that brief reference in the Throne Speech. It provides details of some of the initiatives that have been taken throughout the government to simplify regulatory procedures, particularly as they affect private citizens and the operators of business.

Although much of the focus is on the year ended 30 June 1984, this Survey is not intended to be strictly an annual report. Because it is the first such Survey prepared, some slightly earlier recent accomplishments are included.

The Caucus Committee on Economic Affairs has been given the task of encouraging, and where possible, co-ordinating the work of regulatory simplification and reform. I would welcome any comments and suggestions -- from persons either in the private sector or within the Government -- about matters that require further attention. In particular, it is necessary to have information about specific problems, in order to resolve them.

R. KEITH ALEXANDER
M.L.A., Edmonton Whitemud, and
Chairman, Caucus Committee on
Economic Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS

This Progress Survey summarizes the actions taken by the Government of Alberta to fulfill its commitment to simplify regulatory procedures. The commitment is a continuing one, and further steps will be taken in the future.

The chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee of Caucus, R. Keith Alexander, M.L.A., sent letters to a number of business associations, inviting them to comment on regulatory reform matters. The briefs received have been summarized in Chapter 5, together with comments by Government departments on the issues raised.

Concurrently, Ministers have encouraged changes of a deregulatory nature in almost all Government departments and agencies. These are summarized in Chapter 2, and set out in detail in Chapter 4. A number of these changes respond to concerns expressed by the business community.

A concern frequently expressed by members of the business community is that it is often the attitude of the regulatory officials, rather than the regulations themselves, that is the cause of frustration. Some Departments have responded by encouraging staff members to participate in internal or private sector training programs directed toward improving communication with the public.

A further development, arising out of these contacts with the business community, is that the Alberta Chamber of Commerce has decided to make regulatory reform one of its own priorities. The Government is assisting the Chamber where appropriate. The Chamber, in turn, will provide the Government with information about problem areas that are known to the Chamber, but may not be known to Government officals. This project commenced in October, 1984. The Chamber has identified three areas where it is focussing its attention:

a. reducing the paper burden on small business;
b. reducing the cost of Workers' Compensation assessments; and
c. reducing the cost of hearings to businesses before the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

Many regulatory problems are interjurisdictional, involving the Government of Canada, or the governments of other provinces. The new Government in Ottawa has expressed a desire to review problems of this sort, and several provinces have recently also indicated that the problems of over-regulation must be addressed. The result may be a greater opportunity to resolve interjurisdictional problems than has existed in the past.

SUMMARY OF DEREGULATORY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reducing its regulatory involvement in the affairs of citizens and businesses has become an increasingly important objective for the Alberta Government in recent years. The focus of this Progress Survey is on the year ended 30 June 1984, but significant information from recent prior years also has been included.

Government regulatory activities can be expressed as regulatory Statutes, actual Alberta Regulations, or the procedures, policies, and attitudes of the officials involved. In seeking opportunities for deregulation, we must look at all of these.

The more significant recent initiatives of departments and agencies of the Alberta Government are summarized in this Chapter. This list of Departments and Agencies has been divided into two parts. Part A includes those with a significant regulatory impact on the business community; these are the departments and agencies most often referred to when concerns are expressed. Part B lists those departments and agencies with less regulatory impact on the business community. Within Parts A and B, the listing is alphabetical.

More detailed information about each department will be found in Chapter 4 (where the arrangement is simply alphabetical, with no division into "A" and "B"). Information about specific concerns by industry associations will be found in Chapter 5.

(A) DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WITH SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY IMPACT

Attorney General

(1) A review of all Alberta Regulations has resulted in the repeal of some 175 obsolete Regulations; this review is continuing. The number of pre-1978 Regulations has been reduced from 1,284 to 800 -- a reduction of 37 per cent. The total number of Regulations, from December 31, 1982, to June 30, 1984, has been reduced from 2,017 to 1,629, a reduction of 20 per cent. (2) This project will eventually produce a complete data base of all Regulations, which will make them more accessible, and permit computer-assisted review, revision, and simplification.

(3) A Drafting Style Manual has been developed for all legislative instruments. In addition to fostering a more precise and uniform drafting style, it sets out the Government's policies respecting the appropriate use of Regulations (for details of this policy, see the Ministerial Statement in Chapter 7, Appendix A).

(4) Some improvements have been made to the registration and search procedures respecting liens on motor vehicles and other chattels, in order to provide more rapid service to the public. Further changes are under review.

(5) The Department is also reviewing a "default judgement system," which would simplify the procedure for paying tickets for minor traffic offences and at the same time reduce the Department's associated costs.

(6) Several Acts were amended to provide minor procedural changes that will allow the Department to operate more efficiently.

Consumer and Corporate Affairs

(1) The Department no longer requires some 55,000 businesses and salesmen to obtain licences; those formerly licenced are saved the inconvenience of applying, and $1,000,000 in fees, per year. (2) Procedures for the remaining licences have been much simplified, and some conditions eliminated.

(3) The examination of prospective real estate salesmen has been turned over to the Alberta Real Estate Association. (4) Bonding requirements have been eliminated, and the Association has established an assurance fund. This industry, which was previously closely supervised by the government, now enjoys a substantial measure of self-regulation.

(5) Insurance brokers' licences are now issued on a progressive step-by-step basis; this is a move in the direction of self-regulation for this industry.

(6) The procedures of the Corporate Registry have been greatly simplified, and fewer filings are required. (7) The mechanics of checking proposed names for new companies has been turned over to the private sector; it is no longer done by the Government.

(8) Much greater flexibility has been introduced into the interpretation of the law respecting consumer credit advertising. Problems remain, however, with a limited number of operators. (9) Similarly, the administration of the Unfair Trade Practices Act is now directed toward working with industry groups to provide acceptable standards, rather than dealing with all individual transgressions. The number of legal actions under this Act has decreased. (10) A review of the Unfair Trade Practices Act has commenced.

(11) Bare land condominiums are now permitted. (12) The interest rate on residential tenants' security deposits has been moved from the Act to the Regulations, so that it can be adjusted according to money market conditions.

(13) The Department has sought, through greater co-operation with other agencies, to reduce duplication of regulatory activity: (a) with the municipalities with respect to the administration of the Public Contributions Act; (b) with federal Consumer and Corporate Affairs respecting overlapping investigations under the federal Combines Investigation Act and the Alberta Unfair Trade Practices Act; and (c) with the federal department for families using the Alberta Family Finance Counselling Service. (14) There is also greater liaison with national as well as provincial trade and business associations.

(15) The staff have been encouraged to be courteous and conciliatory in all their dealings with businesses and the public, and formal communications are carefully monitored.

Environment

(1) The policy respecting permit applications has been changed from one of imposing conditions or regulations, to one of setting objectives. This allows the applicant greater flexibility of methods, and also reduces Departmental processing time.

(2) Efforts have been made to re-emphasize that service, rather than regulation, is important in dealings with the public and with industry.

(3) The Department has encouraged better communication with Agriculture, Transportation, and Energy and Natural Resources, in order to reduce regulatory duplications. (4) It co-operates with the Energy Resources

Conservation Board on energy development approvals, for which the Board provides a "one window" service for applications.

(5) The Environment Impact Assessment guidelines were reviewed by industry, government, and the public, and some changes have been made. (6) A review has been undertaken of the Departments' approval process for applications respecting mining development and reclamation.

(7) The Department now has authority to release data collated from industries licenced under the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

(8) The Agriculture Chemicals Act was amended, to standardize application procedures, and provide greater flexibility in classifying chemicals and restricting (or not restricting) their use.

(9) Proposals are being considered to consolidate and streamline several Acts and Regulations: (a) the Water Resources Regulations; (b) the Water Power Regulations; (c) the Land Surface Conservation and Reclamation Act, and Regulations; (d) the Regulated Lake Shoreland Development Operations Regulations; (e) the Litter Act.

(10) The Regulations respecting the cutting of natural ice for commercial purposes were repealed.

(11) To facilitate competition in the brewing industry, all domestic beer bottles and cans are now exempted from certain provisions of the Beverage Container Act. The breweries themselves operate efficient container return systems. (12) Container industry representatives have formed a Council to suggest further changes to the legislation. However, differing interests in the industry have requested government involvement, making progress toward self-regulation difficult.

(13) Increased regulatory requirements were felt to be necessary, for environmental protection and public safety, in certain areas: (a) the Hazardous Chemicals Act and proposed Regulations; (b) the Pesticide Applicator Licensing Regulations; and (c) the Special Waste Management Corporation Act.

Executive Council: Energy Resources Conservation Board

(1) The Oil Proration System has been simplified (a) by placing some 600 Alberta pools on self-regulating "good production practices", and (b) by increasing the allowed basic production rate for all wells in Alberta. (2) A new regulation, imposing controls over oil field waste management and oil reclamation facilities, increased regulatory activities but at the same time clarified responsibilities for the owners of such facilities.

(3) The Production Accounting System has been changed significantly. It is no longer necessary (a) to file additional copies of production reports at the ERCB's field offices, and (b) to include marketable gas as part of production reports.

(4) Low pressure gas distribution lines are no longer regulated by the ERCB (the Pipeline Amendment Act, 1984). (5) A new pipeline approval and information system is being planned to simplify procedures. The Canadian Petroleum Association and the Independent Producers Association of Canada are currently reviewing the proposed procedures. (6) The ERCB also plans to request statutory changes affecting Common Purchaser and Rateable Take provisions of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act, including elimination of some public hearings.

(7) Consideration is being given to reducing the number of approvals required from the ERCB and Alberta Environment for small sweet gas plants. (8) Drilling of critical sour gas plants is now more strictly regulated if very large volumes of hydrogen sulphide could be released to the atmosphere, or if the wells are located adjacent to large urban developments.

(9) Administrative duplication has been eliminated between the ERCB and the Mines Inspection Branch (Department of Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation) and between the ERCB and the Dams Safety Branch (Alberta Environment) through the co-ordination of activities.

(10) Application for waste coal external discard dump licences can now be handled separately from applications for coal pits. (11) Alberta Environment is reviewing the ERCB's proposal that mine plans for small coal mines be submitted once every five years rather than annually. (12) A review of the entire coal approval process is planned.

(13) New Hydro and Electric Energy Regulations were instituted in 1983, consolidating procedures formerly set out in a series of informational letters and directives. (14) Certain reporting requirements were simplified; (15) duplication with respect to Alberta Environment was eliminated; and (16) small Wind-powered power plants were exempted from full regulatory requirements. (17) The ERCB, Alberta Environment, and Energy and Natural Resources are currently discussing ways of improving referral procedures in order to reduce the application processing time.

Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs

The new Federal government has identified regulatory reform as an instrument for removing obstacles to growth in the private sector. In cooperation with the provinces, the following sectors of the economy: finance, construction, energy, forestry, mining, tourism, fisheries, transportation, telecommunications, and agriculture have been targeted for regulatory reform. In addition, international trade and foreign investment regulations are to be reviewed.

Labour

(1) Efforts have been made to better co-ordinate the regulatory activities within the branches of the Department, and also with other Departments and municipalities, with respect to construction and safety standards, in order to reduce multiple regulation. (2) Seminars have been held for Department and municipal inspectors with a view to encouraging a philosopy of safety promotion, rather than a philosophy of strict enforcement. Several meetings have also been held with industry associations to promote better understanding on both sides.

(3) Several Regulations have been consolidated and brought up-to-date: (a) airport vicinity construction requirements for noise protection; (b) a uniform provincial fire code, replacing disparate municipal codes; (c) a new electrical construction code, based on a national uniform code, and providing for such new devices as flat undercarpet cable.

(4) Residential garages may now be built over plastic gas service lines. (5) Higher gas pressures are permitted through service lines and regulators. (6) Refrigeration mechanics may now repair the heating portion of combination heating and cooling units. (7) Posting of inspectors' certificates in passenger and freight elevators is no longer required.

(8) Forms have been simplified for: (a) accidents involving electric power lines; and (b) reporting fires.

(9) Mediators are no longer compulsory when seeking settlements respecting collective agreements; they are at the option of the parties, or the discretion of the Minister. (10) A scheme has been adopted to reduce the number of frivolous appeals, and hence speed up the employment standards umpire system. (11) The Employment Standards Directors' Demand (to a financial institution) must now be for a specific amount.

(12) However, the increased regultory activity has been necessary to do: (a) the increased importation of foreign electrical equipment; and (b) conversion of vehicles from gasoline to propane fuel. (13) The Pension Benefits Branch's proposals for new legislation would be a regulatory increase. However, the Branch hopes, concurrently, to introduce some paper burden reductions for employers.

(14) The Labour Relations Board has been unable to greatly reduce regulations. (15) However, it attempted to accelerate procedures to bring an application before the Board. (16) A recent change ensures that when the Board is asked to reconsider its own decisions, the review is before a new panel of the Board.

(17) The Human Rights Commission has prepared a paper recommending legislative changes which may lead to a less regulatory approach to problems.

Municipal Affairs

(1) Application procedures for the Senior Citizens' Renter Assistance Program have been simplified. As well, the cheques are now mailed more quickly. (2) Vacant residential land is now exempted from the school foundation levy.

(3) Numerous amendments to the Planning Act addressed areas of conflict between developers and local planning agencies. The Planning Amendment Act was designed to better accommodate development activity. (4) The regulations respecting noise standards in buildings near airports have been simplified.

(5) Procedures for municipal debenture borrowing have been simplified. (6) A simpler and more equitable Municipal Assistance Grant formula was adopted.

(7) Together with Alberta Education, the Department has worked with local Municipal and school officials to simplify and speed up the equalized assessment process. (8) Legislation is being prepared to provide further simplification. (9) Regulations respecting the assessment of oil and gas well machinery and down-hole pipe have been revised, to reduce the reporting requirements for the property owner, and the administrative costs for the municipality. (10) the Provincial assessment Manual is being revised, for use in 1985. The intent is to streamline procedures for the municipality, without lessening equity among properties liable to assessment.

(11) The new Local Authorities Election Act provides uniform and simplified procedures for the election of municipal councillors and members of school, hospital, or nursing home boards.

(12) Twenty-two obsolete Regulations and one obsolete Act were repealed in the past year; the review of existing legislative instruments is continuing.

Solicitor General

(1) The Motor Vehicles Division has installed a new computer, regionalized its operations, completely revised its office procedures, and attempted to simplify all aspects of its interface with the public. This has resulted in: (a) faster service for motorists seeking new or renewed vehicle or operator's licences; (b) improved and more complete service at the smaller offices throughout the province; (c) more rapid and more accurate information for law enforcement purposes; and (d) the opportunity for a more expeditious interface with the Motor Transport Board to accomodate truck licencing requirements.

(2) Some aspects of the system which represent less red tape for vehicle owners include: (a) a better mail-in procedure to renew plates (a visit to the office is not usually necessary); (b) "lifetime" plates for all types of trailers, which require no renewal; (c) permanent registrations for fleets, with renewal fees payable by simple invoice; and (d) a much simplified scale of licencing fees. (3) Concurrently, the medical requirements for some classes of operators' licences were simplified, and fewer medical reports are required. (4) The classification of operators licences, particularly as they relate to drivers of large vehicles, will be simplified in the future. (5) Motorists will have the option of personalized licence plates in the near future.

(6) In consultation with Alberta Transportation and other Departments, the Motor Vehicles Administration Act, the Off-Highway Vehicles Act, and the associated regulations are being reviewed, consolidated, and simplified. (7) Consideration is being given to turning over to the insurance industry those functions now performed by the Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund. Accident victims would then be spared the present inconvenience of making duplicate claims to their own insurer and to the Fund.

(8) Discussions are continuing with the Attorney General with respect to a "default judgement system." This system will simplify for both the motorist and the Government the collection of outstanding fines for minor traffic offences, and perhaps parking offences. (9) Consideration is also being given to incorporating the registry of liens against motor vehicles and other chattels into the Motor Vehicles Division database. This could simplify lien registration and search procedures, and speed up service to the public.

(10) The motor vehicle accident reports required from the police have been simplified with a saving in time for both the police and the motorist who has had an accident.

(11) While the work of the Correctional Services Division does not lend itself to deregulation, considerable progress has been made in privatizing various institutional requirements, including food, medical, pharmacy, chaplaincy, and educational services. (12) Where possible, the services of minimum security facilities are obtained by contract from private agencies.

(13) Substantial changes to the Liquor Control Act and Regulations became effective in 1981. These were the first major changes in almost 25 years, and provided for substantial deregulation. The amendments provided licencees with much new flexibility in serving their customers. They also removed unnecessary prohibitions respecting the activites of members of the public. (14) A Liquor Licencing Review Council was created to provide a "second opinion" on Board decisions with which a licencee (or applicant) was unsatisfied. (15) Since that date, a great many further detailed changes of a deregulatory nature have been made, many of them in response to industry suggestions. A common thread in many of the changes effective in 1981 and more recently has been to remove those rules that are merely economic in impact, but to leave the rules that have apparent value in preventing serious abuses. (A detailed list is included in Chapter 4.) (16) During the autumn of 1984, the Minister, Dr. Reid, engaged in new discussions with industry representatives to see what further changes would be appropriate.

(17) The Alberta Racing Commission now (a) permits horses to be owned by syndicates and corporations; (b) permits shipped-in horses to race, even though not stabled at the track; (c) permits horses with different owners, but a common trainer to run as separate entities (for betting purposes) in the same race; and (d) has simplified procedures for renewing licences.

Transportation

(1) Truck speed limits are now similar to automobile speeds on most highways, for the convenience of truckers and to reduce unsafe passing. School bus speed limits have also been adjusted.
(2) The approval of applications for property development and signage adjacent to primary highways has been streamlined. Land use planning has been given to the municipalities.

(3) The Pacific Western Airlines Act was passed to facilitate the airline's sale.

(4) The Highway Traffic Act, the Motor Vehicle Administration Act, and the Motor Transport Act are being reviewed in co-operation with the Solicitor General, with a veiw to simplification.

(5) The Minister has made deregulation of the motor transport industry a priority, both within Alberta, and at interprovincial meetings. The **Motor Transport Board** has been reorganized.

(6) The rules governing charter buses within Alberta, including the "public need and convenience" test, will be phased out over three years.
(7) The rules for truckers' operating authority have been greatly simplified, particularly respecting residency, the seasonal movement of farm crops, and movement of the carriers' own goods. Equipment rules have also been simplified. (8) Extra-provincial operating authority

certificates are now issued "to the border only" rather than to a specific destination, to provide flexibility to the operator.

(9) Lloydminster is a "free zone" for Alberta and Saskatchewan truckers. (10) Future efforts at deregulation will be somewhat dependent upon the co-operation of, and parallel initiatives by, other jurisdictions.

Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation

(1) The **Occupational Health and Safety Division** is engaged in an ongoing review and consolidation of its Regulations. Emphasis has been placed upon employing "performance standards," which (unlike the previous "specification standards") set out objectives without limiting the methods used to meet those objectives. This style of Regulation allows greater flexibility to the business operator. (2) Similarly, the new Regulations focus on general hazards and not on specific industries.

(3) Greater reliance has been placed upon having equipment certified safe by professional engineers, rather than inspected by government officials, (4) and upon codes established by the Canadian Standards Association and other similar independent non-government agencies. (5) In addition, industries are encouraged to develop their own safety codes, specific to the workplace.

(6) As an alternative to regulation, the Division promotes workplace safety through the use of educational and training programs: information and research services; workplace consultation between employers, employees, and division staff; and economic incentives.

(7) The Occupational Health and Safety Act was amended (a) to provide employers with greater flexibility in complying with the Act and Regulations; (b) to simplify the procedures for reporting industrial accidents; and (c) to expand the requirements for business to develop their own safety codes of practice, as an alternative to government regulation. (8) At the same time, the right of the worker to refuse apparently unsafe work was strengthened.

(9) The new General Safety Regulation consolidates five former Regulations totalling some 1,600 sections into one Regulation of 240 sections. Several unnecessary provisions were simply eliminated. (10) However, some new areas of regulation have been introduced: sanitary facilities; climbing on electric power lines; provision of respiratory protective equipment; and "roll bars" on certain equipment.

(11) Public comment has been requested on a proposed "Radiation Protection Act." (12) The new General Safety Regulation will be amended, as required, to reflect the experience gained during its initial period of use. (13) The Division has an ambitious information campaign designed to keep employers aware of proposed regulatory changes.

(14) The Workers' Compensation Board has not made any significant recent changes to its procedures. A major review of its work is nearing completion by a Committee of the Legislature, under the chairmanship of the Minister, Mr. Diachuk.

(B) DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WITH LESS REGULATORY IMPACT

Advanced Education

(1) The Universities Co-ordinating Council has been given greater authority to set educational standards for professions and occupations. Although this is not deregulation *per se*, it advances the Government's policy of providing a framework for responsible self-regulation by professional and occupational groups. In addition, it should result in a more constructive relationship between the Government, the Council, and the various professional and occupational associations.

(2) Regulations under the *Students' Loan Guarantee Act*, and the *Students' Finance Act* are currently under review. (3) The Private Vocational Schools Advisory Council has been asked to make recommendations to the Minister respecting the Regulations that affect such schools.

Agriculture

(1) The new *Veterinary Profession Act* will avoid the rigidities of the present Act, and conform with the Government's policies respecting professions and occupations.

(2) Appeals under the *Agriculture Pests Act*, 1984 are now directed to a committee, rather than the Courts, to provide a more rapid resolution. (3) Fur farmers no longer need to obtain a health certificate for each animal imported, unless requested to do so by the Director. However, inspectors now have the authority to enter and inspect premises.

(4) The *Farm Home Improvement Act* and the *Name of Homes Act*, having become obsolete, were repealed.

(5) The Agriculture Development Corporation is encouraging its staff to become more oriented to service, and less to regulation and control. (6) Extensive revisions have been made to farm loan procedures.

Culture

(1) The Department has become increasingly selective in deciding which developments will require a Historical Resources Impact Assessment before construction can proceed. (2) Through co-operation with Transportation and Environment, such referrals are now handled on a "single window" basis.

(3) The Archaeological Survey of Alberta now utilizes a verbal report and permit procedure (followed by written documents), to save time. (4) The systems and procedures of the Survey are under review, and will be modified to improve service levels.

(5) Local library boards have been given much more freedom to manage their affairs. (6) The application procedures for Library Grants and Historical Resources Grants have been considerably simplified.

Economic Development

(1) Reporting requirements have been reduced over the past two years respecting the Alberta and Canada content of major industrial projects.

Education

(1) The Department has been involved in a major reorganization, with a view to deregulating and decentralizing its operations, in order to improve public accessibility to its services and increase the quality and cost-efficiency of education delivery throughout the province. (2) A major concern has been to foster the devolution of the decision-making process and thus to provide greater autonomy to local school boards. At the same time, the Department is attempting to simplify procedures where those boards interface with the Department.

(3) A major revision of the School Act has been commenced which will, among other things, extend the initiatives already taken towards simplification of procedures and decentralization of decision making.

Energy and Natural Resources

(1) In the Energy Resources Division, Alberta took over the administration of the Petroleum Incentives Plan, and has been working to reduce its discriminatory aspects. (a) The "threshold limit" has been raised, to $3 million. (b) The "overhead expense policy" has been simplified. (c) Several items under the "adjustment rules" have been removed. (d) Application procedures have been simplified.

(2) The Freehold Mineral Tax is now charged on petroleum production, rather than the pool's reserves. This is fairer, and less complicated administratively. (3) A proposal to alter the method of paying the Crown

royalty on natural gas has been discussed with the industry. It will result in a substantial reduction in the associated workload and paperburden for the firms involved. (4) The procedures for Petroleum and Condensates Reporting by the industry have been simplified.

(5) The Mines and Minerals Act has been amended to clarify and simplify some complex areas of the legislation. The changes have also provided a more appropriate association between exploration costs and the royalty revenues so generated. (6) The Oil Sands Conservation Act has been amended, broadening the definition of "oil sands" to allow more positive economic treatment of related hydrocarbons. (7) The legislation has been amended to allow the Alberta Oil Sands Technology Research Authority to enter into a broader range of agreements.

(8) The Alberta Forest Service has simplified procedures for geophysical approvals within the Green Zone. (9) Emphasis has been placed upon improving the relationship of staff with the public. (10) Several of the forest fire protection rules have been related, including the requirement to carry fire tools in vehicles, the requirement for spark arresters on vehicles, and the need to maintain clearances around camps and mills. (11) As well, large areas near Metis Colony No. 7 and Frog Lake have been deleted form the Forest Protection Area, and (12) the fire control zones adjacent to the Forest Protection Area have been reduced. (13) Fire bans and related restrictions will now affect fewer industrial and residential burning projects (including campfires) near a forest protection area. (14) Persons involved in burning projects will no longer be charged with an offence unless a forest fire actually results.

(15) The Fish and Wildlife Division now operates under a policy that emphasises the need to be "as sensitive as possible to the public which is being regulated." (16) The Regulations are being reviewed and will be brought up to date following the passage of a new Wildlife Act, which is expected in late 1984. (17) The game hunting zones, and associated rules, have been simplified. (18) Landholders may now take immediate action against problem wolves or beavers.

(19) The procedures for leasing commercial sites from the Public Lands Division has been simplified, (20) as have procedures for obtaining homestead lands. (21) The ownership of waterbodies has been clarified; only those that are natural and permanent belong to the Crown. (22) The approval time for surface dispositions, especially those relating to oil and gas, has been accelerated. (23) At the same time, the Division is considering increased regulation of inappropriate use of vacant public land, such as the indiscriminate use of all-terrain vehicles in relatively fragile areas.

(24) New procedures require fewer corporations than formerly needed to make annual reports to the Foreign Ownership of Land Administration. (25) A further review of the Regulations, with a view to simplification is

planned. (26) However, new Regulations have placed some additional restrictions on applicants for Land Agents Licences.

(27) The **Bureau of Surveying and Mapping** has signed an agreement with its federal counterpart, to achieve closer co-ordination of programs. (28) The Surveys Act is being reviewed, with a view to providing more operational flexibility to professional surveyors. (29) Operators of aerial surveys no longer need furnish copies of all their photographs to the Government.

Housing

(1) The recent amalgamation of the Alberta Housing Corporation and the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation into the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation has resulted in a policy review which may lead to future deregulation. A focus of the review is the duplication in planning procedures.

(2) Recent changes were made to the regulations respecting the Alberta Pioneers' Grant Repair Program, to facilitate delivery of grants.

(3) More responsibility has been transferred to the private sector, and guidelines established, in order to reduce the Department's safety-related inspections of: (a) relocatable buildings; and (b) metal buildings.

Manpower

(1) The Manpower Development Act gives private sector employers and employees control over apprenticeship and trade regulations, which are thus not government initiated or imposed. (2) Good co-operation has been achieved with other agencies, particularly the Labour Department, to reduce overlaps.

(3) It is no longer necessary: (a) to obtain a parent's consent to a minor's contract of apprenticeship; or (b) for the Local Apprenticeship Committee to review credits for previous training.

(4) Recent changes to regulations have made provision for several new trades and clarified the definitions of others. (5) For some trades, the amount of work experience needed as a journeyman was increased: cook, lather, power lineman, waterwell driller, insulator, and plumber.

(6) Industry has demanded increased enforcement of apprenticeship and trade regulations recently.

(7) A policy of encouraging compliance with, rather than enforcing the sanctions of, the Employment Agencies Act has been followed.

Native Affairs

Project grants to native organizations have been placed on an annual contractual basis. This has substantially reduced paperwork for both the applicant and the Department, and fostered better annual planning for all concerned.

Professional and Occupational Legislation

(1) Regulations were approved, and the Nursing Profession Act proclaimed in force, to give the Nursing profession recognized status in accord with the Government's policy of establishing professional and occupational groups as responsible self-governing bodies. (2) Preliminary legislative steps were taken in that process with respect to nursing assistants, rehabilitation practitioners, acupuncturists, the dental profession, the chiropractic profession, the physical therapy profession, and the veterinary profession. For all of these, appropriate regulations will follow in due course to complete the process.

(3) The Public Service Employee Relations Board was empowered to exclude from the bargaining unit students in certain professional fields.

Recreation and Parks

(1) Park campsites may now be reserved by telephone; previously a mailed, pre-paid reservation was required. (2) Park Service staff have been asked to be oriented more to service to the public and less to enforcement of regulations.

(3) The regulations respecting applications for recreation grants have been simplified, and made more flexible.

(4) Requirements for those wishing to pursue research in Provincial Parks have been greatly simplified. (5) The Provincial Parks Act was amended and clarified and the associated regulations are now being reviewed.

(6) Procedures for the purchase of firewood have been simplified. The new system is cost-effective, and allows maximum participation by small local suppliers.

Social Services and Community Health

(1) All Social Services' programs have been streamlined, and where necessary, limited. (2) The streamlining has included a simplification of application procedures for many programs.

(3) Licencing requirements for residential, institutional and day-care facilities have been simplified. (4) Where services are provided to clients of the Department by private operators, greater reliance has been placed upon spelling out the requirements in a contract. This reduces the need for detailed regulations and inspection activities.

(5) A new Public Health Act consolidated the provisions of six former Acts, and reduced overlapping inspection requirements with Labour and Environment. (6) Related regulations are now being prepared. (7) An educational program for public health inspectors has been undertaken to achieve greater uniformity of interpretation of the regulations.

(8) Some Department procedures have assumed a more regulatory character in those aspects of programs where greater financial accountability is required.

(9) Several previously cost shared programs between AADAC and the Federal government or provincial departments have become the sole responsibility of one body. This has substantially reduced the paper burden and simplified accountability.

(A more detailed list of Department initiatives is contained in Chapter 4.)

Tourism and Small Business

(1) The temporary Alberta Heritage Fund Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program, which is no longer accepting new applications, was set up using application procedures that were as simplified as possible. (2) Similarly, efforts have been made to keep application procedures to the Small Business Equity Corporations Program as simple as the circumstances wil permit.

(3) Travel Alberta is reviewing its procedures for gathering information from tourist operators, and the public, to see if simplification can be effected. (4) The Northern Development Branch has simplified its procedures for awarding small contracts.

(15) The **Alberta Opportunity Company** has reviewed its Act and regulations to ensure that there were no impediments to serving the small business community; no major changes are planned.

Treasury

(1) Regulations respecting corporate income tax have been kept as simple as possible. Whenever possible, the department adopts procedures that will reduce the cost of compliance, and eliminate "nuisance procedures." For example, (a) notice of non-operating status is now accepted in lieu of a complete tax return; (b) the write-off limit has been raised from $1 to $5; (c) mailing of forms has been simplified and only essential items are sent to all taxpayers; and (d) through communication with other agencies, an attempt is made to reduce duplicate auditing of a taxpayer's books. (2) An advisory committee from the tax accounting profession has been established.

(3) The Department has taken the initiative in asking all provinces to consider introducing a simple "universal" form for use by truckers in reporting mileage for licence fees, fuel tax, and sales tax to all jurisdictions where they operate.

(4) The tobacco sales permit, formerly required by some 15,000 retailers, has been eliminated. Procedures to simplify collection of the tobacco tax are being considered. (5) Bulk fuel agents no longer need to carry bills of lading. The number of circumstances requiring fuel oil special permits has been reduced.

Utilities and Telecommunications

(1) Changes have been introduced to assist municipalities undertaking projects under the Alberta Municipal Water Supply and Sewage Treatment Grant Program. (a) Funding approvals are now obtained in early July to allow for more summer and fall construction. (b) The government's cost-sharing formula has been simplified. (c) For small projects, formal agreements are no longer required, eliminating the need for municipal by-laws and lengthy departmental processing. (d) Independent audit requirements have been eliminated for small projects. (e) For larger projects, standard formal agreements have been modified, allowing flexibility in the timing of progress payments.

(2) The Rural Gas Regulation and the Department of Utilities and Telephones Grant Regulations were revised to eliminate obsolete requirements and to simplify grant and construction application procedures. (3) Grant eligibility and payment procedures have also been mechanized, resulting in quicker processing time.

(4) An automated drafting program for as-built drawings of rural gas utility plants has been implemented.

(5) Gas Alberta now offers an optional billing service to rural gas co-operatives which has reduced paper-work and improved cash-flows for the co-operatives.

(6) Permit procedures for natural gas pipelines have been significantly reduced and regulatory overlap with the Energy Resources Conservation Board has been eliminated. (7) the Department is now wholly responsible for inspecting construction of low-pressure gas pipelines (the ERCB is no longer involved), and has partially transferred field inspection work to the private sector.

(8) Regulatory activity has increased in two areas of the rural gas program: (a) a materials quality assurance program was introduced four or five years ago as a result of problems with substandard construction materials; and (b) the Department has been more active over the past two or three years in assisting distributors with their operations and maintenance practices.

(9) The number of tariffed items in the **Alberta Government Telephones** general tariff was reduced in 1981 as a result of deregulating the provision of terminal equipment.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF STATUTES AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE

Following is a brief summary of the numbers of Alberta Statutes and Regulations proclaimed and in force on October 31, 1984. While the table shows the relative volume of legislative instruments administered by each Department or Agency, it must be remembered that not all of these instruments are "regulatory" to the same degree.

"Number of Statutes" and "Number of Regulations" refers to the number of separate instruments, in consolidated form.

"Number of pages" represents printed pages in the usual format of Statutes of Alberta, The Alberta Gazette, etc., and is approximate.

"Regulations Not Gazetted" have the same force and effect as Regulations published in the Gazette. However, they have been exempted from publication, often because the information is available elsewhere to those requiring it.

Departmental directives that are not filed as Regulations, and Board orders that are not of legislative applications, have not been included here. See notes on Page 3.4.

MINISTER	STATUTES		REGULATIONS IN GAZETTE		REGULATIONS NOT GAZETTED		TOTAL	
	Number of Acts	Number of Pages	Number of Regulations	Number of Pages	Number of Regulations	Number of Pages	Number of Instruments	Number of Pages
Advanced Education	11	144	8	52	—	—	19	196
Women's Bureau	1	12	—	—	—	—	1	12
Agriculture	48	492	168	905	9	9	225	1,406
Attorney General	94	1,138	87	527	1	375	182	2,040
Public Service Employee Relations	1	55	—	—	—	—	1	55
Consumer & Corporate Affairs	36	1,466	84	784	—	—	120	2,250
Culture	11	83	16	95	—	—	27	178
Economic Development	3	23	4	19	—	—	7	42

MINISTER	STATUTES		REGULATIONS IN GAZETTE		REGULATIONS NOT GAZETTED		TOTAL	
	Number of Acts	Number of Pages	Number of Regulations	Number of Pages	Number of Regulations	Number of Pages	Number of Instruments	Number of Pages
Education	7	144	72	432	—	—	79	576
Professional & Occupational Legislation	20	223	24	176	—	—	44	399
Energy & Natural Resources	16	227	113	829	—	—	129	1,056
Public Lands & Wildlife	11	201	74	434	—	—	85	635
Environment	14	262	47	357	—	—	61	619
Executive Council	4	21	—	—	—	—	4	21
Energy Resources Conservation Board	12	224	36	633	2,358	10,346	2,406	11,203
Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs	2	6	1	2	—	—	3	8
Hospital & Medical Care	17	269	33	394	—	—	50	663
Housing	4	34	8	80	—	—	12	114
Labour	17	304	69	707	33	2214	119	3,225
Legislative Assembly	7	246	6	65	—	—	13	311
Manpower	3	35	55	178	—	—	58	213
Municipal Affairs	29	771	119	1,581	—	—	148	2,352
Provincial Treasurer	1	11	—	—	—	—	1	11
Personnel Administration	1	18	2	2	3	703	6	723
Public Works, Supply & Services	6	156	17	173	—	—	23	329
Recreation & Parks	6	33	171	297	—	—	177	330
Social Services & Community Health	29	377	53	499	—	—	82	876
Solicitor General	12	251	28	269	337	337	337	857
Tourism & Small Business	3	26	8	59	—	—	11	85
Transportation	10	315	81	1,119	1	8	92	1,442
Disaster Services	1	10	4	26	—	—	5	36
Treasury	29	505	86	254	34	68	149	827
Utilities & Telecommunications	11	107	7	59	—	—	18	166
Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation	5	115	23	270	37	1,129	65	1,514
Total	482	8,304	1,504	11,277	2,813	15,189	4,797	34,770

NOTES

(a) The Preceding table shows the total number of Regulations in the Gazette as 1,504, with a further total of 2,813 as being not published in the Gazette.

In Chapters 2 and 4, the entry for the Attorney General states that there are 1,629 Regulations in force. The figure of 1,629 represents the 1,504 in the table, plus about 100 further Regulations that are indexed in the Regulations Index, but not published in the Gazette.

(b) Examples of "Regulations not Gazetted" included the following:

There are some 10,000 orders of the Energy Resources Conservation Board which have the character of ongoing regulations. The Board notifies interested parties when such orders are made.

Several building and construction codes are administered by Labour. The published codes are available from such organizations as the Canadian Standards Association, and the amendments are available from the Department, but Alberta does not publish consolidations of these codes as they apply to Alberta.

Temporary Road Bans from the Department of Transportation are not published because they come into force immediately, and are for a short term.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
REGULATORY REFORM IN ALBERTA

(1) This Chapter contains a brief history of Regulations in Alberta, together with a few details about the emphasis that the Alberta Government is now giving to simplifying and reducing regulatory procedures.

(2) Alberta, like all Parliamentary jurisdictions, has a great many Regulations in force. The opinion of legislative draftsmen and others is that their actual volume in Alberta is probably somewhat less than the volume of similar instruments in most other major Canadian jurisdictions. However, this is a subjective judgement, for it is difficult to make an exact comparison between jurisdictions, without making a detailed Regulation by Regulation comparison, which, of course, has never been done.

(3) A complete official consolidation of Regulations was last made in 1957, and all earlier Regulations were then repealed. There were numerous subsequent amendments in the following years, and perhaps no consistent philosophy about the purpose or use of Regulations.

(4) There has been interest in Alberta in improving the process of making and reviewing Regulations for some ten years and considerable progress has been made.

(5) In 1973, a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly was appointed to study the question, invite submissions from the public, and make recommendations to the Assembly. This committee was chaired by Mr. Rudolph Zander, then M.L.A. for Drayton Valley, and it became known as the Zander Committee.

(6) Its members travelled to Quebec City, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, and Ottawa, and held hearings in Calgary and Edmonton. In November 1974, it submitted its Report. (This Report, which is available in the Legislature Library, contains an interesting summary of the development of regulations and statutory instruments in Parliamentary jurisdictions.)

(7) The Government gave this report detailed consideration and on May 1, 1978, the Government formally responded. The response was in the form of a Ministerial Statement (the text of which appears in Chapter 5) by the Honourable Graham L. Harle, M.L.A. for Stettler, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Chairman of the Cabinet's Legislation Review Committee. He had also been a member of the original Zander Committee.

(8) The Government accepted most of the basic recommendations of the Zander Committee and the policy set out in the Ministerial

Statement has formed the basis for the Regulation-making procedures now in place.

(9) An important result has been the development of a "Drafting Style Manual for Acts, Regulations, and Order-in-Council" by the Legislative Counsel office. The manual also provides a procedural guide for the steps in the approval process.

(10) Perhaps most significantly, the Government, through the Legislative Counsel office, has involved itself in a complete consolidation of all existing Regulations. Although this procedure is assisted by the technology of the 1980's, with a computer-based word-processing system, it will take at least two more years to complete. The mechanical consolidation is merely the starting point for a thorough review of each Regulation by the Department officials and Minister involved, as well as a further review by a Cabinet Committee before each new consolidated Regulation is approved by Order-in-Council. Because of this review process, the current consolidation will be more thorough than that of 1956, which was more a mechanical consolidation of the Regulations and amendments then on the books.

(11) Although the Zander Committee Report and the responding Ministerial Statement did not emphasize "deregulation" per se, the effect of the whole review and consolidation process has been one of simplification and the elimination of old and unnecessary regulatory provisions.

(12) Regulatory reform, however, cannot be achieved in isolation from other jurisdictions. An agreement was reached at the February, 1978 First Ministers' Conference on the Economy that "the burden of government regulation on the private sector should be reduced and the burden of overlapping federal and provincial jurisdictions should be eliminated." The First Ministers decided that "the whole matter of economic regulation at all levels of government should be referred to the Economic Council for recommendations for action, in consultation with the provinces and the private sector." The Economic Council of Canada released its final report, entitled "Reforming Regulation", on June 11, 1981. No discussion of the Economic Council's recommendations has taken place at subsequent first Ministers' Conferences on the Economy.

(13) More recently, the Government has given more specific priority to the need to actively work to reduce the burden of regulatory requirements and procedures that affect both businesses and individuals in Alberta.

(14) The Premier and all Ministers have asked their Department officials to be aware of the need to simplify and reduce regulatory procedures in all areas of Government activity. The Government believes this initiative reflects the feelings of the public, and it is also consistent with the Government's own need to conduct its own activities with an increased consciousness of operating costs.

(15) The Government's commitment to this principle was emphasized in the Speech from the Throne on March 15, 1984, as follows:

> A government-wide effort is being made to reduce or eliminate unnecessary or obsolete regulations which frustrate or complicate the lives of our citizens, as well as the operations of businesses - some of which will lead to legislative proposals for the Assembly.

(16) In order to address regulatory problems, the Economic Affairs Committee of the Government Caucus (under the Chairmanship of R. Keith Alexander, M.L.A. for Edmonton Whitemud) has established a forum to hear views on the regulatory activities of the Government and the impact of these activities upon the private sector. A small secretariat has also been established to assist with this work, and liaison has been established with officials in all Government departments.

(17) Over the past several months, letters have been sent to some 300 business and trade associations in Alberta, requesting their views. As responses are received, they are circulated to the relevant Government departments and agencies for item-by-item review and action. As part of this process, this Committee may hold a round-table meeting with representatives of the Association and officials from the regulatory agencies to further discuss the Association's concerns. This Committee has emphasized that if regulatory problems are to be addressed, it is most important that members of the business community and individual citizens make the Government aware of specific problems.

(18) Concurrently, several Ministers have been aggressively working within their own Departments to reduce the regulatory burden. For example, the Hon. Marvin Moore, Minister of Transportation, has re-organized the Motor Transport Board, and is in the process of greatly simplifying the regulations that govern commercial trucking. Other Ministers have taken similar initiatives.

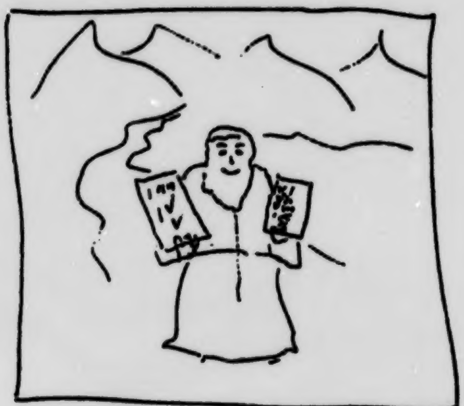
(19) The submissions received to date by the Committee from the business community suggest that there is often more concern about the way the Acts or Regulations are administered than with the Acts or Regulations themselves. Ministers and senior officials are addressing this problem as well. For example, a recent staff circular entitled, "Improving the Public Image of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation," pointed out that, "A growing segment of the farming public believe that some of us have lost sight of the fact that we are here to serve - and have become, instead, more inclined to regulate and control."

(20) Some of the initiatives towards a more light-handed regulatory approach are directed at the public at large, not just the business community. An excellent example is the new "Good Host" policy of the provincial Park Ranger staff, which covers many aspects of Provincial Park operations, including the enforcement of regulations governing the activities of Park visitors. The

policy directs the staff to encourage compliance with necessary Park regulations and to avoid, wherever circumstances permit, the "law enforcement" approach based on prosecution, particularly for minor transgressions.

(21) In addition to the work of consolidating existing Regulations, the Legislative Counsel office has been asked to identify those that are obsolete. On May 30, 1984, an Order-in-Council was passed, repealing 227 old and obsolete Regulations. Several dozen other old regulations have also been repealed in recent weeks, and this process is continuing.

(22) Thus, the Government of Alberta fully accepts the need to review and simplify regulatory procedures, and its efforts to do so will continue.



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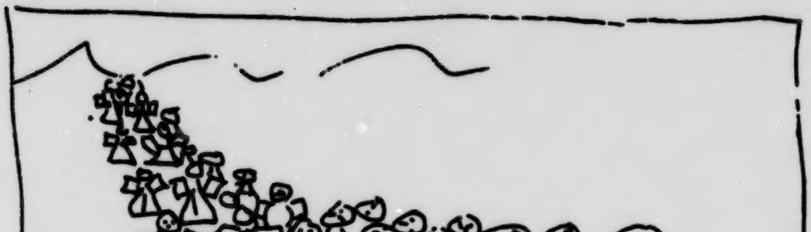

AND. THESE ARE THE REGULATIONS

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Progress Survey of Deregulatory Initiatives by Government of Alberta Departments and Agencies

February 1985

Caucus Committee on Economic Affairs
Government of Alberta

85-3726/

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INTRODUCTION

The Speech from the Throne on March 15, 1984, indicated the Government's intention to emphasize five priority areas, one of which is deregulation:

> A government-wide effort is being made to reduce or eliminate unnecessary or obsolete regulations which frustrate or complicate the lives of our citizens, as well as the operations of businesses - some of which will lead to legislative proposals for the Assembly.

This Progress Survey is an attempt to expand upon that brief reference in the Throne Speech. It provides details of some of the initiatives that have been taken throughout the government to simplify regulatory procedures, particularly as they affect private citizens and the operators of business.

Although much of the focus is on the year ended 30 June 1984, this Survey is not intended to be strictly an annual report. Because it is the first such Survey prepared, some slightly earlier recent accomplishments are included.

The Caucus Committee on Economic Affairs has been given the task of encouraging, and where possible, co-ordinating the work of regulatory simplification and reform. I would welcome any comments and suggestions -- from persons either in the private sector or within the Government -- about matters that require further attention. In particular, it is necessary to have information about specific problems, in order to resolve them.

R. KEITH ALEXANDER
M.L.A., Edmonton Whitemud, and
Chairman, Caucus Committee on
Economic Affairs

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Honourable Hugh Planche, Minister of Economic Development, and members of his Department have shown much interest in the question of regulatory reform and have provided staff and office accomodation.

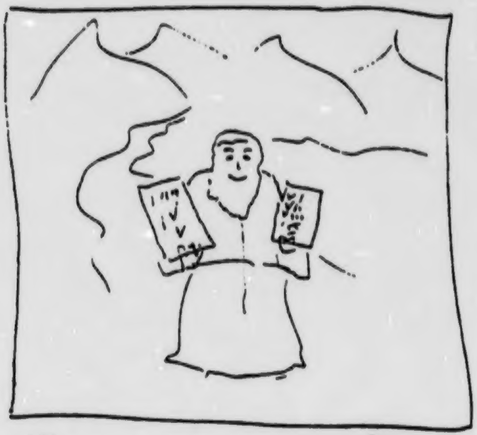
Generous assistance in the preparation of this report has been provided by officials in all Departments and Agencies of the Alberta Government, by Ministers, M.L.A.'s, and their staffs — too many to mention by name, but sincerely appreciated all the same.

Special thanks are due to the staff in my office, Bernie Neufeld and Rhonda Henson; also to temporary staff, Caryn Duncan, Sandra McDonough, Colleen Kent, and Carol van der Velde.

WILLIAM SAMIS
Co-ordinator of Regulatory Reform

CHAPTER 1

HIGHLIGHTS



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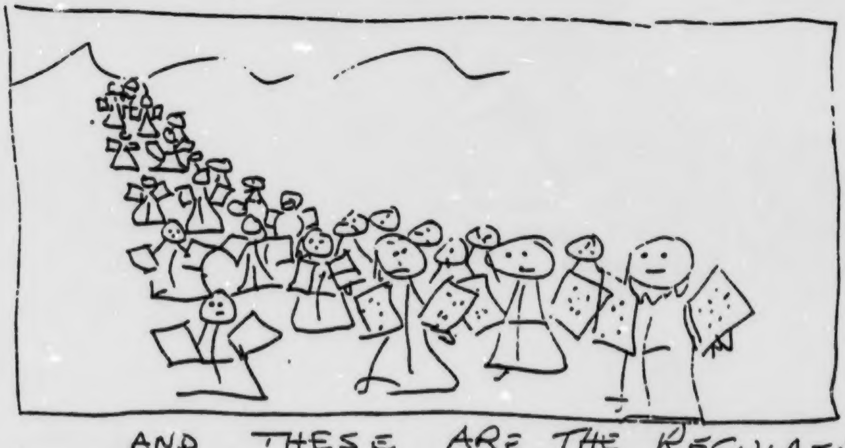

AND THESE ARE THE REGULATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

This Progress Survey summarizes the actions taken by the Government of Alberta to fulfill its commitment to simplify regulatory procedures. The commitment is a continuing one, and further steps will be taken in the future.

The chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee of Caucus, R. Keith Alexander, M.L.A., sent letters to a number of business associations, inviting them to comment on regulatory reform matters. The briefs received have been summarized in Chapter 5, together with comments by Government departments on the issues raised.

Concurrently, Ministers have encouraged changes of a deregulatory nature in almost all Government departments and agencies. These are summarized in Chapter 2, and set out in detail in Chapter 4. A number of these changes respond to concerns expressed by the business community.

A concern frequently expressed by members of the business community is that it is often the attitude of the regulatory officials, rather than the regulations themselves, that is the cause of frustration. Some Departments have responded by encouraging staff members to participate in internal or private sector training programs directed toward improving communication with the public.

A further development, arising out of these contacts with the business community, is that the Alberta Chamber of Commerce has decided to make regulatory reform one of its own priorities. The Government is assisting the Chamber where appropriate. The Chamber, in turn, will provide the Government with information about problem areas that are known to the Chamber, but may not be known to Government officals. This project commenced in October, 1984. The Chamber has identified three areas where it is focussing its attention:

a. reducing the paper burden on small business;
b. reducing the cost of Workers' Compensation assessments; and
c. reducing the cost of hearings to businesses before the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

Many regulatory problems are interjurisdictional, involving the Government of Canada, or the governments of other provinces. The new Government in Ottawa has expressed a desire to review problems of this sort, and several provinces have recently also indicated that the problems of over-regulation must be addressed. The result may be a greater opportunity to resolve interjurisdictional problems than has existed in the past.

CHAPTER 2

SUMMARY OF DEREGULATORY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUMMARY OF DEREGULATORY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reducing its regulatory involvement in the affairs of citizens and businesses has become an increasingly important objective for the Alberta Government in recent years. The focus of this Progress Survey is on the year ended 30 June 1984, but significant information from recent prior years also has been included.

Government regulatory activities can be expressed as regulatory Statutes, actual Alberta Regulations, or the procedures, policies, and attitudes of the officials involved. In seeking opportunities for deregulation, we must look at all of these.

The more significant recent initiatives of departments and agencies of the Alberta Government are summarized in this Chapter. This list of Departments and Agencies has been divided into two parts. Part A includes those with a significant regulatory impact on the business community; these are the departments and agencies most often referred to when concerns are expressed. Part B lists those departments and agencies with less regulatory impact on the business community. Within Parts A and B, the listing is alphabetical.

More detailed information about each department will be found in Chapter 4 (where the arrangement is simply alphabetical, with no division into "A" and "B"). Information about specific concerns by industry associations will be found in Chapter 5.

(A) DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WITH SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY IMPACT

Attorney General

(1) A review of all Alberta Regulations has resulted in the repeal of some 175 obsolete Regulations; this review is continuing. The number of pre-1978 Regulations has been reduced from 1,284 to 800 -- a reduction of 37 per cent. The total number of Regulations, from December 31, 1982, to June 30, 1984, has been reduced from 2,017 to 1,629, a reduction of 20 per cent. (2) This project will eventually produce a complete data base of all Regulations, which will make them more accessible, and permit computer-assisted review, revision, and simplification.

(3) A Drafting Style Manual has been developed for all legislative instruments. In addition to fostering a more precise and uniform drafting style, it sets out the Government's policies respecting the appropriate use of Regulations (for details of this policy, see the Ministerial Statement in Chapter 7, Appendix A).

(4) Some improvements have been made to the registration and search procedures respecting liens on motor vehicles and other chattels, in order to provide more rapid service to the public. Further changes are under review.

(5) The Department is also reviewing a "default judgement system," which would simplify the procedure for paying tickets for minor traffic offences and at the same time reduce the Department's associated costs.

(6) Several Acts were amended to provide minor procedural changes that will allow the Department to operate more efficiently.

Consumer and Corporate Affairs

(1) The Department no longer requires some 55,000 businesses and salesmen to obtain licences; those formerly licenced are saved the inconvenience of applying, and $1,000,000 in fees, per year. (2) Procedures for the remaining licences have been much simplified, and some conditions eliminated.

(3) The examination of prospective real estate salesmen has been turned over to the Alberta Real Estate Association. (4) Bonding requirements have been eliminated, and the Association has established an assurance fund. This industry, which was previously closely supervised by the government, now enjoys a substantial measure of self-regulation.

(5) Insurance brokers' licences are now issued on a progressive step-by-step basis; this is a move in the direction of self-regulation for this industry.

(6) The procedures of the Corporate Registry have been greatly simplified, and fewer filings are required. (7) The mechanics of checking proposed names for new companies has been turned over to the private sector; it is no longer done by the Government.

(8) Much greater flexibility has been introduced into the interpretation of the law respecting consumer credit advertising. Problems remain, however, with a limited number of operators. (9) Similarly, the administration of the Unfair Trade Practices Act is now directed toward working with industry groups to provide acceptable standards, rather than dealing with all individual transgressions. The number of legal actions under this Act has decreased. (10) A review of the Unfair Trade Practices Act has commenced.

(11) Bare land condominiums are now permitted. (12) The interest rate on residential tenants' security deposits has been moved from the Act to the Regulations, so that it can be adjusted according to money market conditions.

(13) The Department has sought, through greater co-operation with other agencies, to reduce duplication of regulatory activity: (a) with the municipalities with respect to the administration of the Public Contributions Act; (b) with federal Consumer and Corporate Affairs respecting overlapping investigations under the federal Combines Investigation Act and the Alberta Unfair Trade Practices Act; and (c) with the federal department for families using the Alberta Family Finance Counselling Service. (14) There is also greater liaison with national as well as provincial trade and business associations.

(15) The staff have been encouraged to be courteous and conciliatory in all their dealings with businesses and the public, and formal communications are carefully monitored.

Environment

(1) The policy respecting permit applications has been changed from one of imposing conditions or regulations, to one of setting objectives. This allows the applicant greater flexibility of methods, and also reduces Departmental processing time.

(2) Efforts have been made to re-emphasize that service, rather than regulation, is important in dealings with the public and with industry.

(3) The Department has encouraged better communication with Agriculture, Transportation, and Energy and Natural Resources, in order to reduce regulatory duplications. (4) It co-operates with the Energy Resources

Conservation Board on energy development approvals, for which the Board provides a "one window" service for applications.

(5) The Environment Impact Assessment guidelines were reviewed by industry, government, and the public, and some changes have been made. (6) A review has been undertaken of the Departments' approval process for applications respecting mining development and reclamation.

(7) The Department now has authority to release data collated from industries licenced under the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

(8) The Agriculture Chemicals Act was amended, to standardize application procedures, and provide greater flexibility in classifying chemicals and restricting (or not restricting) their use.

(9) Proposals are being considered to consolidate and streamline several Acts and Regulations: (a) the Water Resources Regulations; (b) the Water Power Regulations; (c) the Land Surface Conservation and Reclamation Act, and Regulations; (d) the Regulated Lake Shoreland Development Operations Regulations; (e) the Litter Act.

(10) The Regulations respecting the cutting of natural ice for commercial purposes were repealed.

(11) To facilitate competition in the brewing industry, all domestic beer bottles and cans are now exempted from certain provisions of the Beverage Container Act. The breweries themselves operate efficient container return systems. (12) Container industry representatives have formed a Council to suggest further changes to the legislation. However, differing interests in the industry have requested government involvement, making progress toward self-regulation difficult.

(13) Increased regulatory requirements were felt to be necessary, for environmental protection and public safety, in certain areas: (a) the Hazardous Chemicals Act and proposed Regulations; (b) the Pesticide Applicator Licensing Regulations; and (c) the Special Waste Management Corporation Act.

Executive Council: Energy Resources Conservation Board

(1) The Oil Proration System has been simplified (a) by placing some 600 Alberta pools on self-regulating "good production practices", and (b) by increasing the allowed basic production rate for all wells in Alberta. (2) A new regulation, imposing controls over oil field waste management and oil reclamation facilities, increased regulatory activities but at the same time clarified responsibilities for the owners of such facilities.

(3) The Production Accounting System has been changed significantly. It is no longer necessary (a) to file additional copies of production reports at the ERCB's field offices, and (b) to include marketable gas as part of production reports.

(4) Low pressure gas distribution lines are no longer regulated by the ERCB (the Pipeline Amendment Act, 1984). (5) A new pipeline approval and information system is being planned to simplify procedures. The Canadian Petroleum Association and the Independent Producers Association of Canada are currently reviewing the proposed procedures. (6) The ERCB also plans to request statutory changes affecting Common Purchaser and Rateable Take provisions of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act, including elimination of some public hearings.

(7) Consideration is being given to reducing the number of approvals required from the ERCB and Alberta Environment for small sweet gas plants. (8) Drilling of critical sour gas plants is now more strictly regulated if very large volumes of hydrogen sulphide could be released to the atmosphere, or if the wells are located adjacent to large urban developments.

(9) Administrative duplication has been eliminated between the ERCB and the Mines Inspection Branch (Department of Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation) and between the ERCB and the Dams Safety Branch (Alberta Environment) through the co-ordination of activities.

(10) Application for waste coal external discard dump licences can now be handled separately from applications for coal pits. (11) Alberta Environment is reviewing the ERCB's proposal that mine plans for small coal mines be submitted once every five years rather than annually. (12) A review of the entire coal approval process is planned.

(13) New Hydro and Electric Energy Regulations were instituted in 1983, consolidating procedures formerly set out in a series of informational letters and directives. (14) Certain reporting requirements were simplified; (15) duplication with respect to Alberta Environment was eliminated; and (16) small Wind-powered power plants were exempted from full regulatory requirements. (17) The ERCB, Alberta Environment, and Energy and Natural Resources are currently discussing ways of improving referral procedures in order to reduce the application processing time.

Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs

The new Federal government has identified regulatory reform as an instrument for removing obstacles to growth in the private sector. In cooperation with the provinces, the following sectors of the economy: finance, construction, energy, forestry, mining, tourism, fisheries, transportation, telecommunications, and agriculture have been targeted for regulatory reform. In addition, international trade and foreign investment regulations are to be reviewed.

Labour

(1) Efforts have been made to better co-ordinate the regulatory activities within the branches of the Department, and also with other Departments and municipalities, with respect to construction and safety standards, in order to reduce multiple regulation. (2) Seminars have been held for Department and municipal inspectors with a view to encouraging a philosopy of safety promotion, rather than a philosophy of strict enforcement. Several meetings have also been held with industry associations to promote better understanding on both sides.

(3) Several Regulations have been consolidated and brought up-to-date: (a) airport vicinity construction requirements for noise protection; (b) a uniform provincial fire code, replacing disparate municipal codes; (c) a new electrical construction code, based on a national uniform code, and providing for such new devices as flat undercarpet cable.

(4) Residential garages may now be built over plastic gas service lines. (5) Higher gas pressures are permitted through service lines and regulators. (6) Refrigeration mechanics may now repair the heating portion of combination heating and cooling units. (7) Posting of inspectors' certificates in passenger and freight elevators is no longer required.

(8) Forms have been simplified for: (a) accidents involving electric power lines; and (b) reporting fires.

(9) Mediators are no longer compulsory when seeking settlements respecting collective agreements; they are at the option of the parties, or the discretion of the Minister. (10) A scheme has been adopted to reduce the number of frivolous appeals, and hence speed up the employment standards umpire system. (11) The Employment Standards Directors' Demand (to a financial institution) must now be for a specific amount.

(12) However, the increased regultory activity has been necessary to do: (a) the increased importation of foreign electrical equipment; and (b) conversion of vehicles from gasoline to propane fuel. (13) The Pension Benefits Branch's proposals for new legislation would be a regulatory increase. However, the Branch hopes, concurrently, to introduce some paper burden reductions for employers.

(14) The Labour Relations Board has been unable to greatly reduce regulations. (15) However, it attempted to accelerate procedures to bring an application before the Board. (16) A recent change ensures that when the Board is asked to reconsider its own decisions, the review is before a new panel of the Board.

(17) The Human Rights Commission has prepared a paper recommending legislative changes which may lead to a less regulatory approach to problems.

Municipal Affairs

(1) Application procedures for the Senior Citizens' Renter Assistance Program have been simplified. As well, the cheques are now mailed more quickly. (2) Vacant residential land is now exempted from the school foundation levy.

(3) Numerous amendments to the Planning Act addressed areas of conflict between developers and local planning agencies. The Planning Amendment Act was designed to better accommodate development activity. (4) The regulations respecting noise standards in buildings near airports have been simplified.

(5) Procedures for municipal debenture borrowing have been simplified. (6) A simpler and more equitable Municipal Assistance Grant formula was adopted.

(7) Together with Alberta Education, the Department has worked with local Municipal and school officials to simplify and speed up the equalized assessment process. (8) Legislation is being prepared to provide further simplification. (9) Regulations respecting the assessment of oil and gas well machinery and down-hole pipe have been revised, to reduce the reporting requirements for the property owner, and the administrative costs for the municipality. (10) the Provincial assessment Manual is being revised, for use in 1985. The intent is to streamline procedures for the municipality, without lessening equity among properties liable to assessment.

(11) The new Local Authorities Election Act provides uniform and simplified procedures for the election of municipal councillors and members of school, hospital, or nursing home boards.

(12) Twenty-two obsolete Regulations and one obsolete Act were repealed in the past year; the review of existing legislative instruments is continuing.

Solicitor General

(1) The Motor Vehicles Division has installed a new computer, regionalized its operations, completely revised its office procedures, and attempted to simplify all aspects of its interface with the public. This has resulted in: (a) faster service for motorists seeking new or renewed vehicle or operator's licences; (b) improved and more complete service at the smaller offices throughout the province; (c) more rapid and more accurate information for law enforcement purposes; and (d) the opportunity for a more expeditious interface with the Motor Transport Board to accomodate truck licencing requirements.

(2) Some aspects of the system which represent less red tape for vehicle owners include: (a) a better mail-in procedure to renew plates (a visit to the office is not usually necessary); (b) "lifetime" plates for all types of trailers, which require no renewal; (c) permanent registrations for fleets, with renewal fees payable by simple invoice; and (d) a much simplified scale of licencing fees. (3) Concurrently, the medical requirements for some classes of operators' licences were simplified, and fewer medical reports are required. (4) The classification of operators licences, particularly as they relate to drivers of large vehicles, will be simplified in the future. (5) Motorists will have the option of personalized licence plates in the near future.

(6) In consultation with Alberta Transportation and other Departments, the Motor Vehicles Administration Act, the Off-Highway Vehicles Act, and the associated regulations are being reviewed, consolidated, and simplified. (7) Consideration is being given to turning over to the insurance industry those functions now performed by the Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund. Accident victims would then be spared the present inconvenience of making duplicate claims to their own insurer and to the Fund.

(8) Discussions are continuing with the Attorney General with respect to a "default judgement system." This system will simplify for both the motorist and the Government the collection of outstanding fines for minor traffic offences, and perhaps parking offences. (9) Consideration is also being given to incorporating the registry of liens against motor vehicles and other chattels into the Motor Vehicles Division database. This could simplify lien registration and search procedures, and speed up service to the public.

(10) The motor vehicle accident reports required from the police have been simplified with a saving in time for both the police and the motorist who has had an accident.

(11) While the work of the Correctional Services Division does not lend itself to deregulation, considerable progress has been made in privatizing various institutional requirements, including food, medical, pharmacy, chaplaincy, and educational services. (12) Where possible, the services of minimum security facilities are obtained by contract from private agencies.

(13) Substantial changes to the Liquor Control Act and Regulations became effective in 1981. These were the first major changes in almost 25 years, and provided for substantial deregulation. The amendments provided licencees with much new flexibility in serving their customers. They also removed unnecessary prohibitions respecting the activites of members of the public. (14) A Liquor Licencing Review Council was created to provide a "second opinion" on Board decisions with which a licencee (or applicant) was unsatisfied. (15) Since that date, a great many further detailed changes of a deregulatory nature have been made, many of them in response to industry suggestions. A common thread in many of the changes effective in 1981 and more recently has been to remove those rules that are merely economic in impact, but to leave the rules that have apparent value in preventing serious abuses. (A detailed list is included in Chapter 4.) (16) During the autumn of 1984, the Minister, Dr. Reid, engaged in new discussions with industry representatives to see what further changes would be appropriate.

(17) The Alberta Racing Commission now (a) permits horses to be owned by syndicates and corporations; (b) permits shipped-in horses to race, even though not stabled at the track; (c) permits horses with different owners, but a common trainer to run as separate entities (for betting purposes) in the same race; and (d) has simplified procedures for renewing licences.

Transportation

(1) Truck speed limits are now similar to automobile speeds on most highways, for the convenience of truckers and to reduce unsafe passing. School bus speed limits have also been adjusted.
(2) The approval of applications for property development and signage adjacent to primary highways has been streamlined. Land use planning has been given to the municipalities.

(3) The Pacific Western Airlines Act was passed to facilitate the airline's sale.

(4) The Highway Traffic Act, the Motor Vehicle Administration Act, and the Motor Transport Act are being reviewed in co-operation with the Solicitor General, with a veiw to simplification.

(5) The Minister has made deregulation of the motor transport industry a priority, both within Alberta, and at interprovincial meetings. The **Motor Transport Board** has been reorganized.

(6) The rules governing charter buses within Alberta, including the "public need and convenience" test, will be phased out over three years.
(7) The rules for truckers' operating authority have been greatly simplified, particularly respecting residency, the seasonal movement of farm crops, and movement of the carriers' own goods. Equipment rules have also been simplified. (8) Extra-provincial operating authority

certificates are now issued "to the border only" rather than to a specific destination, to provide flexibility to the operator.

(9) Lloydminster is a "free zone" for Alberta and Saskatchewan truckers. (10) Future efforts at deregulation will be somewhat dependent upon the co-operation of, and parallel initiatives by, other jurisdictions.

Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation

(1) The **Occupational Health and Safety Division** is engaged in an ongoing review and consolidation of its Regulations. Emphasis has been placed upon employing "performance standards," which (unlike the previous "specification standards") set out objectives without limiting the methods used to meet those objectives. This style of Regulation allows greater flexibility to the business operator. (2) Similarly, the new Regulations focus on general hazards and not on specific industries.

(3) Greater reliance has been placed upon having equipment certified safe by professional engineers, rather than inspected by government officials, (4) and upon codes established by the Canadian Standards Association and other similar independent non-government agencies. (5) In addition, industries are encouraged to develop their own safety codes, specific to the workplace.

(6) As an alternative to regulation, the Division promotes workplace safety through the use of educational and training programs: information and research services; workplace consultation between employers, employees, and division staff; and economic incentives.

(7) The Occupational Health and Safety Act was amended (a) to provide employers with greater flexibility in complying with the Act and Regulations; (b) to simplify the procedures for reporting industrial accidents; and (c) to expand the requirements for business to develop their own safety codes of practice, as an alternative to government regulation. (8) At the same time, the right of the worker to refuse apparently unsafe work was strengthened.

(9) The new General Safety Regulation consolidates five former Regulations totalling some 1,600 sections into one Regulation of 240 sections. Several unnecessary provisions were simply eliminated. (10) However, some new areas of regulation have been introduced: sanitary facilities; climbing on electric power lines; provision of respiratory protective equipment; and "roll bars" on certain equipment.

(11) Public comment has been requested on a proposed "Radiation Protection Act." (12) The new General Safety Regulation will be amended, as required, to reflect the experience gained during its initial period of use. (13) The Division has an ambitious information campaign designed to keep employers aware of proposed regulatory changes.

(14) The **Workers' Compensation Board** has not made any significant recent changes to its procedures. A major review of its work is nearing completion by a Committee of the Legislature, under the chairmanship of the Minister, Mr. Diachuk.

(B) DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WITH LESS REGULATORY IMPACT

Advanced Education

(1) The Universities Co-ordinating Council has been given greater authority to set educational standards for professions and occupations. Although this is not deregulation per se, it advances the Government's policy of providing a framework for responsible self-regulation by professional and occupational groups. In addition, it should result in a more constructive relationship between the Government, the Council, and the various professional and occupational associations.

(2) Regulations under the Students' Loan Guarantee Act, and the Students' Finance Act are currently under review. (3) The Private Vocational Schools Advisory Council has been asked to make recommendations to the Minister respecting the Regulations that affect such schools.

Agriculture

(1) The new Veterinary Profession Act will avoid the rigidities of the present Act, and conform with the Government's policies respecting professions and occupations.

(2) Appeals under the Agriculture Pests Act, 1984 are now directed to a committee, rather than the Courts, to provide a more rapid resolution.
(3) Fur farmers no longer need to obtain a health certificate for each animal imported, unless requested to do so by the Director. However, inspectors now have the authority to enter and inspect premises.

(4) The Farm Home Improvement Act and the Name of Homes Act, having become obsolete, were repealed.

(5) The Agriculture Development Corporation is encouraging its staff to become more oriented to service, and less to regulation and control.
(6) Extensive revisions have been made to farm loan procedures.

Culture

(1) The Department has become increasingly selective in deciding which developments will require a Historical Resources Impact Assessment before construction can proceed. (2) Through co-operation with Transportation and Environment, such referrals are now handled on a "single window" basis.

(3) The Archaeological Survey of Alberta now utilizes a verbal report and permit procedure (followed by written documents), to save time. (4) The systems and procedures of the Survey are under review, and will be modified to improve service levels.

(5) Local library boards have been given much more freedom to manage their affairs. (6) The application procedures for Library Grants and Historical Resources Grants have been considerably simplified.

Economic Development

(1) Reporting requirements have been reduced over the past two years respecting the Alberta and Canada content of major industrial projects.

Education

(1) The Department has been involved in a major reorganization, with a view to deregulating and decentralizing its operations, in order to improve public accessibility to its services and increase the quality and cost-efficiency of education delivery throughout the province. (2) A major concern has been to foster the devolution of the decision-making process and thus to provide greater autonomy to local school boards. At the same time, the Department is attempting to simplify procedures where those boards interface with the Department.

(3) A major revision of the School Act has been commenced which will, among other things, extend the initiatives already taken towards simplification of procedures and decentralization of decision making.

Energy and Natural Resources

(1) In the Energy Resources Division, Alberta took over the administration of the Petroleum Incentives Plan, and has been working to reduce its discriminatory aspects. (a) The "threshold limit" has been raised, to $3 million. (b) The "overhead expense policy" has been simplified. (c) Several items under the "adjustment rules" have been removed. (d) Application procedures have been simplified.

(2) The Freehold Mineral Tax is now charged on petroleum production, rather than the pool's reserves. This is fairer, and less complicated administratively. (3) A proposal to alter the method of paying the Crown

royalty on natural gas has been discussed with the industry. It will result in a substantial reduction in the associated workload and paperburden for the firms involved. (4) The procedures for Petroleum and Condensates Reporting by the industry have been simplified.

(5) The Mines and Minerals Act has been amended to clarify and simplify some complex areas of the legislation. The changes have also provided a more appropriate association between exploration costs and the royalty revenues so generated. (6) The Oil Sands Conservation Act has been amended, broadening the definition of "oil sands" to allow more positive economic treatment of related hydrocarbons. (7) The legislation has been amended to allow the Alberta Oil Sands Technology Research Authority to enter into a broader range of agreements.

(8) The Alberta Forest Service has simplified procedures for geophysical approvals within the Green Zone. (9) Emphasis has been placed upon improving the relationship of staff with the public. (10) Several of the forest fire protection rules have been related, including the requirement to carry fire tools in vehicles, the requirement for spark arresters on vehicles, and the need to maintain clearances around camps and mills. (11) As well, large areas near Metis Colony No. 7 and Frog Lake have been deleted form the Forest Protection Area, and (12) the fire control zones adjacent to the Forest Protection Area have been reduced. (13) Fire bans and related restrictions will now affect fewer industrial and residential burning projects (including campfires) near a forest protection area. (14) Persons involved in burning projects will no longer be charged with an offence unless a forest fire actually results.

(15) The **Fish and Wildlife Division** now operates under a policy that emphasises the need to be "as sensitive as possible to the public which is being regulated." (16) The Regulations are being reviewed and will be brought up to date following the passage of a new Wildlife Act, which is expected in late 1984. (17) The game hunting zones, and associated rules, have been simplified. (18) Landholders may now take immediate action against problem wolves or beavers.

(19) The procedures for leasing commercial sites from the **Public Lands Division** has been simplified, (20) as have procedures for obtaining homestead lands. (21) The ownership of waterbodies has been clarified; only those that are natural and permanent belong to the Crown. (22) The approval time for surface dispositions, especially those relating to oil and gas, has been accelerated. (23) At the same time, the Division is considering increased regulation of inappropriate use of vacant public land, such as the indiscriminate use of all-terrain vehicles in relatively fragile areas.

(24) New procedures require fewer corporations than formerly needed to make annual reports to the **Foreign Ownership of Land Administration.** (25) A further review of the Regulations, with a view to simplification is

planned. (26) However, new Regulations have placed some additional restrictions on applicants for Land Agents Licences.

(27) The **Bureau of Surveying and Mapping** has signed an agreement with its federal counterpart, to achieve closer co-ordination of programs. (28) The Surveys Act is being reviewed, with a view to providing more operational flexibility to professional surveyors. (29) Operators of aerial surveys no longer need furnish copies of all their photographs to the Government.

Housing

(1) The recent amalgamation of the Alberta Housing Corporation and the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation into the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation has resulted in a policy review which may lead to future deregulation. A focus of the review is the duplication in planning procedures.

(2) Recent changes were made to the regulations respecting the Alberta Pioneers' Grant Repair Program, to facilitate delivery of grants.

(3) More responsibility has been transferred to the private sector, and guidelines established, in order to reduce the Department's safety-related inspections of: (a) relocatable buildings; and (b) metal buildings.

Manpower

(1) The Manpower Development Act gives private sector employers and employees control over apprenticeship and trade regulations, which are thus not government initiated or imposed. (2) Good co-operation has been achieved with other agencies, particularly the Labour Department, to reduce overlaps.

(3) It is no longer necessary: (a) to obtain a parent's consent to a minor's contract of apprenticeship; or (b) for the Local Apprenticeship Committee to review credits for previous training.

(4) Recent changes to regulations have made provision for several new trades and clarified the definitions of others. (5) For some trades, the amount of work experience needed as a journeyman was increased: cook, lather, power lineman, waterwell driller, insulator, and plumber.

(6) Industry has demanded increased enforcement of apprenticeship and trade regulations recently.

(7) A policy of encouraging compliance with, rather than enforcing the sanctions of, the Employment Agencies Act has been followed.

Native Affairs

Project grants to native organizations have been placed on an annual contractual basis. This has substantially reduced paperwork for both the applicant and the Department, and fostered better annual planning for all concerned.

Professional and Occupational Legislation

(1) Regulations were approved, and the Nursing Profession Act proclaimed in force, to give the Nursing profession recognized status in accord with the Government's policy of establishing professional and occupational groups as responsible self-governing bodies. (2) Preliminary legislative steps were taken in that process with respect to nursing assistants, rehabilitation practitioners, acupuncturists, the dental profession, the chiropractic profession, the physical therapy profession, and the veterinary profession. For all of these, appropriate regulations will follow in due course to complete the process.

(3) The Public Service Employee Relations Board was empowered to exclude from the bargaining unit students in certain professional fields.

Recreation and Parks

(1) Park campsites may now be reserved by telephone; previously a mailed, pre-paid reservation was required. (2) Park Service staff have been asked to be oriented more to service to the public and less to enforcement of regulations.

(3) The regulations respecting applications for recreation grants have been simplified, and made more flexible.

(4) Requirements for those wishing to pursue research in Provincial Parks have been greatly simplified. (5) The Provincial Parks Act was amended and clarified and the associated regulations are now being reviewed.

(6) Procedures for the purchase of firewood have been simplified. The new system is cost-effective, and allows maximum participation by small local suppliers.

Social Services and Community Health

(1) All Social Services' programs have been streamlined, and where necessary, limited. (2) The streamlining has included a simplification of application procedures for many programs.

(3) Licencing requirements for residential, institutional and day-care facilities have been simplified. (4) Where services are provided to clients of the Department by private operators, greater reliance has been placed upon spelling out the requirements in a contract. This reduces the need for detailed regulations and inspection activities.

(5) A new Public Health Act consolidated the provisions of six former Acts, and reduced overlapping inspection requirements with Labour and Environment. (6) Related regulations are now being prepared. (7) An educational program for public health inspectors has been undertaken to achieve greater uniformity of interpretation of the regulations.

(8) Some Department procedures have assumed a more regulatory character in those aspects of programs where greater financial accountability is required.

(9) Several previously cost shared programs between AADAC and the Federal government or provincial departments have become the sole responsibility of one body. This has substantially reduced the paper burden and simplified accountability.

(A more detailed list of Department initiatives is contained in Chapter 4.)

Tourism and Small Business

(1) The temporary Alberta Heritage Fund Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program, which is no longer accepting new applications, was set up using application procedures that were as simplified as possible. (2) Similarly, efforts have been made to keep application procedures to the Small Business Equity Corporations Program as simple as the circumstances wil permit.

(3) Travel Alberta is reviewing its procedures for gathering information from tourist operators, and the public, to see if simplification can be effected. (4) The Northern Development Branch has simplified its procedures for awarding small contracts.

(15) The **Alberta Opportunity Company** has reviewed its Act and regulations to ensure that there were no impediments to serving the small business community; no major changes are planned.

Treasury

(1) Regulations respecting corporate income tax have been kept as simple as possible. Whenever possible, the department adopts procedures that will reduce the cost of compliance, and eliminate "nuisance procedures." For example, (a) notice of non-operating status is now accepted in lieu of a complete tax return; (b) the write-off limit has been raised from $1 to $5; (c) mailing of forms has been simplified and only essential items are sent to all taxpayers; and (d) through communication with other agencies, an attempt is made to reduce duplicate auditing of a taxpayer's books. (2) An advisory committee from the tax accounting profession has been established.

(3) The Department has taken the initiative in asking all provinces to consider introducing a simple "universal" form for use by truckers in reporting mileage for licence fees, fuel tax, and sales tax to all jurisdictions where they operate.

(4) The tobacco sales permit, formerly required by some 15,000 retailers, has been eliminated. Procedures to simplify collection of the tobacco tax are being considered. (5) Bulk fuel agents no longer need to carry bills of lading. The number of circumstances requiring fuel oil special permits has been reduced.

Utilities and Telecommunications

(1) Changes have been introduced to assist municipalities undertaking projects under the Alberta Municipal Water Supply and Sewage Treatment Grant Program. (a) Funding approvals are now obtained in early July to allow for more summer and fall construction. (b) The government's cost-sharing formula has been simplified. (c) For small projects, formal agreements are no longer required, eliminating the need for municipal by-laws and lengthy departmental processing. (d) Independent audit requirements have been eliminated for small projects. (e) For larger projects, standard formal agreements have been modified, allowing flexibility in the timing of progress payments.

(2) The Rural Gas Regulation and the Department of Utilities and Telephones Grant Regulations were revised to eliminate obsolete requirements and to simplify grant and construction application procedures. (3) Grant eligibility and payment procedures have also been mechanized, resulting in quicker processing time.

(4) An automated drafting program for as-built drawings of rural gas utility plants has been implemented.

(5) Gas Alberta now offers an optional billing service to rural gas co-operatives which has reduced paper-work and improved cash-flows for the co-operatives.

(6) Permit procedures for natural gas pipelines have been significantly reduced and regulatory overlap with the Energy Resources Conservation Board has been eliminated. (7) the Department is now wholly responsible for inspecting construction of low-pressure gas pipelines (the ERCB is no longer involved), and has partially transferred field inspection work to the private sector.

(8) Regulatory activity has increased in two areas of the rural gas program: (a) a materials quality assurance program was introduced four or five years ago as a result of problems with substandard construction materials; and (b) the Department has been more active over the past two or three years in assisting distributors with their operations and maintenance practices.

(9) The number of tariffed items in the **Alberta Government Telephones** general tariff was reduced in 1981 as a result of deregulating the provision of terminal equipment.

CHAPTER 3

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF STATUTES AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF STATUTES AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE

Following is a brief summary of the numbers of Alberta Statutes and Regulations proclaimed and in force on October 31, 1984. While the table shows the relative volume of legislative instruments administered by each Department or Agency, it must be remembered that not all of these instruments are "regulatory" to the same degree.

"Number of Statutes" and "Number of Regulations" refers to the number of separate instruments, in consolidated form.

"Number of pages" represents printed pages in the usual format of Statutes of Alberta, The Alberta Gazette, etc., and is approximate.

"Regulations Not Gazetted" have the same force and effect as Regulations published in the Gazette. However, they have been exempted from publication, often because the information is available elsewhere to those requiring it.

Departmental directives that are not filed as Regulations, and Board orders that are not of legislative applications, have not been included here. See notes on Page 3.4.

MINISTER	STATUTES		REGULATIONS IN GAZETTE		REGULATIONS NOT GAZETTED		TOTAL	
	Number of Acts	Number of Pages	Number of Regulations	Number of Pages	Number of Regulations	Number of Pages	Number of Instruments	Number of Pages
Advanced Education	11	144	8	52	---	---	19	196
Women's Bureau	1	12	---	---	---	---	1	12
Agriculture	48	492	168	905	9	9	225	1,406
Attorney General	94	1,138	87	527	1	375	182	2,040
Public Service Employee Relations	1	55	---	---	---	---	1	55
Consumer & Corporate Affairs	36	1,466	84	784	---	---	120	2,250
Culture	11	83	16	95	---	---	27	178
Economic Development	3	23	4	19	---	---	7	42

MINISTER	STATUTES		REGULATIONS IN GAZETTE		REGULATIONS NOT GAZETTED		TOTAL	
	Number of Acts	Number of Pages	Number of Regulations	Number of Pages	Number of Regulations	Number of Pages	Number of Instruments	Number of Pages
Education	7	144	72	432	---	---	79	576
Professional & Occupational Legislation	20	223	24	176	---	---	44	399
Energy & Natural Resources	16	227	113	829	---	---	129	1,056
Public Lands & Wildlife	11	201	74	434	---	---	85	635
Environment	14	262	47	357	---	---	61	619
Executive Council	4	21	---	---	---	---	4	21
Energy Resources Conservation Board	12	224	36	633	2,358	10,346	2,406	11,203
Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs	2	6	1	2	---	---	3	8
Hospital & Medical Care	17	269	33	394	---	---	50	663
Housing	4	34	8	80	---	---	12	114
Labour	17	304	69	707	33	2214	119	3,225
Legislative Assembly	7	246	6	65	---	---	13	311
Manpower	3	35	55	178	---	---	58	213
Municipal Affairs	29	771	119	1,581	---	---	148	2,352
Provincial Treasurer	1	11	---	---	---	---	1	11
Personnel Administration	1	18	2	2	3	703	6	723
Public Works, Supply & Services	6	156	17	173	---	---	23	329
Recreation & Parks	6	33	171	297	---	---	177	330
Social Services & Community Health	29	377	53	499	---	---	82	876
Solicitor General	12	251	28	269	337	337	337	857
Tourism & Small Business	3	26	8	59	---	---	11	85
Transportation	10	315	81	1,119	1	8	92	1,442
Disaster Services	1	10	4	26	---	---	5	36
Treasury	29	505	86	254	34	68	149	827
Utilities & Telecommunications	11	107	7	59	---	---	18	166
Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation	5	115	23	270	37	1,129	65	1,514
Total	482	8,304	1,504	11,277	2,813	15,189	4,797	34,770

NOTES

(a) The Preceding table shows the total number of Regulations in the Gazette as 1,504, with a further total of 2,813 as being not published in the Gazette.

In Chapters 2 and 4, the entry for the Attorney General states that there are 1,629 Regulations in force. The figure of 1,629 represents the 1,504 in the table, plus about 100 further Regulations that are indexed in the Regulations Index, but not published in the Gazette.

(b) Examples of "Regulations not Gazetted" included the following:

There are some 10,000 orders of the Energy Resources Conservation Board which have the character of ongoing regulations. The Board notifies interested parties when such orders are made.

Several building and construction codes are administered by Labour. The published codes are available from such organizations as the Canadian Standards Association, and the amendments are available from the Department, but Alberta does not publish consolidations of these codes as they apply to Alberta.

Temporary Road Bans from the Department of Transportation are not published because they come into force immediately, and are for a short term.

CHAPTER 4

DEREGULATORY INITIATIVES BY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

This Chapter is a Department-by-Department review, gathered in the summer of 1984, which provides details of what has been done, or is being done, in each department or agency of the Alberta Government. The emphasis is on deregulatory initiatives, but departments were also asked to provide brief comments on all Acts which were passed, and substantive Regulations which were approved, during the year ended 30 June 1984. Comments were also requested on any increases in regulatory activities.

This information was prepared by the departments themselves, and is (in the main) in their own words, although some material has been condensed.

ADVANCED EDUCATION

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Currently under active review by the Department, are regulations under the Students Loan Guarantee Act and the Students Finance Act. The purpose of the review is to update the regulations and remove provisions in both sets of regulations that are ultra vires the enabling legislation, or are purely administrative in character, or are otherwise unnecessary.

2. The Private Vocational Schools Advisory Council has been directed by Mr. Johnston, the Minister of Advanced Education, to undertake a comprehensive review of the regulations under the Private Vocational Schools Act. Any recommendations for changes to the regulations will be made to the Minister in the near future. In particular, the Council will be looking at licensing requirements, fees and reporting requirements in the regulations.

Bills and Regulations

(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. The Students Loan Guarantee Amendment Act, 1984 was introduced in the Spring of 1984. It increased the ceiling of the contingent liability of the Province to $150 million from $100 million. There was no deregulatory aspect to the Amendment.

2. The Universities Amendment Act, 1984 was also introduced during the Spring Session of the Legislature. The Amendment revised the powers, structure and role of the Universities Co-ordinating Council vis-a-vis professional legislation, giving the Universities

Co-ordinating Council the power to set educational standards for a profession or occupation. Although there was no deregulatory aspect to the Amendment, it will probably result in increased co-operation between the Government, the Universities Co-ordinating Council and various professions and occupations. It is hoped that there will be more clarity and consistency achieved between the practices of the educational standards-setting body and the government policy concerning professional and occupational legislation.

3. Amendments to the Students Loan Guarantee Regulation, the Provincially Administered Institution Regulation and the Students Finance Regulation are all currently in the final draft stage. The revisions do not include any deregulatory aspects.

REPORTING ORGANIZATION

1. Student Finance Board

AGRICULTURE

Deregulatory Initiatives

(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Farm Home Improvement Act, R.S.A. 1980 cF-3.

   This legislation was no longer necessary as no guarantees had been given for several years, and as provisions under this Act were duplicated under the Agricultural Development Act, R.S.A. 1980 cA-7. The Act was repealed November 30, 1983 by the Farm Home Improvement Repeal Act, 1983 c78.

2. Name of Homes Act, R.S.A. 1980 cN-1.

   This legislation was no longer being used for the purpose for which it was originally intended. Under the Act, individuals were granted exclusive right to use a particular name for a ranch or farm home. In recent years, conflicts with the Business Corporation Act had been noted. Also, a significant increase in requests for names taxed the Department's manpower. As a result of repealing the Act, the Department realized an approximate saving of 1000 man hours and $500 in supplies. The Act was repealed by the Name of Homes Repeal Act on November 30, 1983.

3. Agricultural Pests Act R.S.A. 1980 cA-8.

   Repealed under the Agricultural Pest Act 1984 cA-8.1

4. Veterinary Surgeons Act R.S.A. 1980 cV-3.

   Repealed under the Veterinary Profession Act 1984 cV-3.1.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Agricultural Pests Act 1984 cA-8.1

   The major change from the previous Act was to direct appeals to a committee rather than through the court system. The committee, within five days receipt of a notice of appeal, will hear and determine it. As a result, the appellant will realize a considerable time saving, and the court system will be freed from the adjudication of the matter. In structure, the new Act parallels the procedures and enforcement of the Weed Control Act R.S.A. 1980 cW-6.

2. Veterinary Profession Act 1984 cV-3.1

   In consultation with the veterinary profession and the agriculture industry, this Bill was introduced to replace what was considered an outdated and rigid Act. A feature of the new Act is to bring the veterinary profession in line with government policies with respect to professions and occupations.

3. Fur Farms Amendment Act 1984 c20.

   Under this amendment, it is no longer compulsory to obtain a health certificate for each fur bearing animal imported. The Director may request one at his/her discretion. As well, inspectors are given the authority to enter and inspect the premises. The Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources was consulted and supported the Minister's actions.

4. Stray Animals Amendment Act 1984 c39.

   This Act changed the dispersal of revenue obtained from the sale of stray animals.

5. Agrologists' Act R.S.A. 1980 cA-13.

   Amended by Veterinary Profession Act to conform with new title.

6. Animal Protection Act R.S.A. 1980 cA-42.

   Amended by Veterinary Profession Act to conform with new title.

7. Dairy Industry Act 1981 cD-1.1.

   Amended by the Public Health Act 1984 cP27.1 to conform with the new Act.

8. Livestock Diseases Act R.S.A. 1980 cL-32.

   Amended by Veterinary Profession Act to conform with new title.

9. Meat Inspection Act R.S.A. 1980 cM-10.

   Amended by the Veterinary Profession Act and Public Health Act to conform with the new titles.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

The department has not had occasion to deal with attitude problems of regulatory officials.

Increased Regulatory Activity

The Minister of Agriculture, LeRoy Fjordbotten, is not aware of any increased regulatory activity except as required by growth in population, such as livestock inspections.

Future Plans

To date, Alberta Agriculture has no plans to repeal any other Acts at the fall session. Legislation is under continual review to ensure it meets the needs of the agricultural industry.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Deregulatory Initiatives
(Prior to July 1, 1983)

1. On April 1, 1980, the lender of last resort provision was removed for applicants wishing to apply for beginning farmer loans. Prior to that time, such applicants were required to apply to other lenders and be refused credit on reasonable terms before making application to the Alberta Development Corporation.

2. Violation of a capital purchase restriction clause in the loan agreement was eliminated as a basis for causing a beginning farmer

borrower to forfeit the 6% interest rebate.

3. Late in 1979, the 1% administration fee for all guaranteed loans was suspended.

4. During 1982-83, ADC collaborated with the Alberta Opportunity Company by producing terms of reference on the various types of industry loans to be handled by each of the two agencies. These new terms of reference reduced the number of "grey" areas which tended to confuse some borrowers as to which of the two agencies they should apply for financial assistance.

5. The use of solicitors in private practice provides local representation throughout the province. This has been part of the Alberta Development Corporation's policy for many years to assist with loan security documentation and other requirements. Disbursement of loan funds to outside solicitors by telephone or wire transfer, at the Alberta Development Corporations's expense, has helped to expedite receipt of loan funds to borrowers.

(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. The 1% administration fee for all guaranteed loans which had been suspended in 1979 was cancelled outright.

2. A number of changes were introduced in the Beginning Farmer Program which represent less restrictive and/or more positive features for young farmers undertaking a career in agriculture.

    a. The 6% beginning farmer interest rebate is now applied when regular loan payments fall due. Previously, several months elapsed before the interest rebate was made available to the borrower. This change has improved the cash flow situation of many borrowers and reduces the need for them to borrow and pay interest on additional operating funds.

    b. Off-Farm Employment Restrictions

        (i) For new loans made to beginning farmers commencing March 30, 1984, the off-farm employment restriction was eliminated as a basis for denying the 6% interest rebate.

        (ii) For all beginning farmer borrowers with loans in existence at March 29, 1984, off-farm employment restrictions can be exceeded in two of the first three years without forfeiting the 6% interest rebate. In addition, requests to exceed the restrictions for more than two of the first three years will be considered on an individual basis.

    c. All requirements of the Beginning Farmer Program, including agreements involving incentives, were developed to provide a clear outline of the borrower's responsibilities and those of the Alberta Development Corporation.

3. Farm loan and agribusiness loan application forms have been revised and simplified. This has resulted in reduced paperburden for applicants.

4. Farm loan applications are now submitted directly to the Camrose Head Office by district loans officers without the necessity of first going to the regional offices. In addition, there has been more delegation of authority by the Board of Directors to enable staff to deal with specific types of loan applications, and with amendments to existing loans. These steps have resulted in substantial improvements to the time required to process new loans or deal with changes to loans already in existence.

5. The hearing process associated with reviews of declined loans was clarified and improved. This change will improve our clients' understanding of the process itself, and the element of impartial review.

6. Municipal seed cleaning plants may now apply for the Alberta Development Corporation guaranteed loan financing, as well as direct loans, without being subject to lender of last resort provisions. This applies in all such cases, except where an existing plant is being upgraded.

7. On April 1, 1984, the Alberta Development Corporation introduced a revised and simplified agreement covering loans made by banks and other lenders, and guaranteed by the Corporation, under the Alberta Farm Development Loan program. Regulations pertaining to such guaranteed loans have been relaxed to permit refinancing of interest-free loans by machine companies to farmers.

8. To reduce problems associated with obtaining and enforcing loan security, solicitors representing borrowers or third parties are encouraged to deal directly with the solicitor representing the Alberta Development Corporation, thus avoiding unnecessary involvement by other Corporation staff. Also, the Corporation has made greater use of solicitors in private practice.

9. Loan renewal procedures involving minimum documentation and no cost to the borrower have been implemented.

10. As a result of the Business Corporations Act, less documentation is required when loan security is obtained from a corporate borrower.

11. Procedures related to property insurance coverage have been simplified both for the client and his insurance agent.

12. A new farm lending policy manual was prepared and introduced. The use of this manual has assisted in more uniform and consistent application of Alberta Development Corporation farm lending policy,

allowing for improved client satisfaction. Operating divisions and branches of the Corporation have prepared procedures manuals to assist in the consistent application of existing regulations and policies.

13. Revised accounting and Electronic Data Processing systems have enabled the Corporation to provide both clients and field staff with more complete, accurate and timely information concerning the status of client accounts. Also, a new electronic telephone system has helped to improve the handling of client telephone enquiries.

14. The introduction of a new word processing system has greatly enhanced ADC's ability to achieve faster turnaround and improve quality of loan documentation, correspondence and reports.

15. An Operations Analyst position was created to evaluate Corporate operating systems, procedures and activities to ensure appropriate implementation and compliance with established policies and authorities, to appraise and monitor the timeliness and quality of service to the public, and to provide consultation and reports to management staff for the enhancement and improvement of all operating areas.

16. A concerted effort was initiated to make staff aware of the importance of improving the Alberta Development Corporation's public image. Lending brochures were revised and updated, and a new Corporate logo and stationery scheme adopted.

    Field staff are now better informed of lending and administrative requirements, and are encouraged to provide more open communication with the farming public. This includes an adequate explanation as to the rationale behind the Corporation's policies. Staff have been trained to handle serious or "crisis" situations. A considerable amount of work has been done to improve the quality of communication with clients when loan applications are declined.

    Staff at all levels have been reminded of the importance of the Alberta Development Corporation's "service" role to make matters easier for the public, and to provide complete information in a courteous manner.

17. A philosophy of 'working smarter, not harder' was introduced throughout the Corporation and has resulted in elimination of duplication, redundant procedures and reports, and an awareness to improve efficiency and productivity.

(Initiatives undertaken after June 30, 1984)

On August 2, 1984, further changes were made in the Alberta Development Corporation's programs to provide helpful, effective, prompt response to farmers experiencing financial difficulty.

1. Consolidation of trade accounts payable was made an eligible loan purpose under the Alberta Farm Development Loan program under which ADC guaranteed loans through commercial lenders of up to $100,000 for productive farming purposes.

2. Public announcements were made emphasizing the Corporation's willingness to consider guarantees in support of borrowing by Alberta farmers under the Small Business and Bond program, resulting in substantial interest savings to qualifying farmers in financial difficulty.

3. A change was introduced in our farm lending policy to permit the re-amortization of up to $50,000 of arrears over the balance of the loan term. This applies to direct farm loans only.

   Previously, borrowers whose direct loans fell in arrears were unable to bring their accounts current without repayment of the arrears in full. Loans in arrears require increased monitoring and reporting.

Future Plans

1. Additional aspects of legal work will be "privatized".

2. It is anticipated that the development and future implementation of a major Client/Loan Electronic Data Processing system will further improve the availability of accurate and timely information for borrowers, and will enhance the Alberta Development Corporation's ability to respond to the ever-changing credit needs of the agriculture industry.

3. During the past two years, loan processing time has been reduced 50% The Corporation is committed to resonding promptly to requests for financial assistance in a helpful constructive manner. Special emphasis is placed on responding quickly to crisis situations.

OTHER REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

2. Alberta Dairy Control Board

3. Alberta Grain Commission

4. Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation

5. Surface Rights Board

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Department, in general, is not one which administers a great variety of regulatory enactments. Insofar as the deregulation project is concerned, the Department's major role is to provide advice, when requested, to other Departments.

Deregulatory Initiatives

(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

The Attorney General's Department, through the Legislative Counsel Office, was instrumental in carrying out many of the recommendations of the Honourable Graham L. Harle's "Ministerial Statement" on the Zander Report. (See Chapter 7 for Ministerial Statement.)

In order to provide uniformity in language and form, the Legislative Counsel Office developed a style manual for the drafting of Acts, regulations and Orders in Council.

An Order in Council was passed, dated May 30, 1984, repealing some 175 regulations. This achievement was a direct result of an initiative within the Department to review Government regulations and identify those requiring revision and repeal.

Much of the success in reducing the number of pre-1978 regulations has come from repealing obsolete regulations. (The most significant change from our point of view is the reduction of pre-1978 regulations from 1284 to 800).

The Revision Project is now going into a second phase in that many of the 800 pre-1978 regulations that remain have been looked at by draftsmen in this office and a draft has been sent to the Departments that administer the regulations for their consideration.

	December 31, 1982	June 30, 1984
Number of Regulations:	2017	1629
Number of Regulations Prior to 1978:	1284	800
Number of Regulations Post 1978:	733	829

It is anticipated that this project will result in a complete data base of all Alberta Regulations that will allow for computer-assisted searches of the regulations.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 1983

   This Act provides for an amendment to the Public Utilities Board Act to allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council to pay remuneration and travelling and other expenses of Board members, together with minor changes to that Act and the Gas Utilities Act.

2. Public Inquiries Amendment Act, 1983

   This Act allows for commissioned evidence; the right to counsel and right to call and cross-examine witnesses; and the right of a person to give evidence and call or cross-examine witnesses for allegations of misconduct that may be given in a report of the Commissioners under the Act.

3. Summary Convictions Amendment Act, 1983

   This Act provides that Peace Officer under the Act includes Park Wardens.

4. Real Property Statutes Amendment Act, 1983 (No. 3)

   This Act provides an amendment to the Land Titles Act to provide for payments by the Attorney General for claims against the Assurance Fund up to $5,000.00. It stipulates penalties for failure to comply with obligations to provide information or discharges by a mortgagee. It further sets up a scheme to protect individual purchasers or assignees from corporate mortgagors or purchasers from an action on a covenant contained in the mortgage or agreement for sale as the case may be.

5. Provincial Court Amendment Act, 1983 (No. 2)

   This Act provides that a Justice of the Peace may exercise the duties conferred on him by an Act of the Legislature or Parliament respecting judicial interim release.

6. Young Offenders Act

   This Act provides a new regime for young offenders in relation to Provincial offences. The rather informal procedures formerly employed for juveniles are replaced with a much more structured Youth Court system.

7. Attorney General Statutes Amendment Act, 1984

   This Act provided amendments to the following Acts:

   (a) Fatality Inquiries Act

   The amendment provides that a medical examiner must be notified of deaths reasonably attributable to anesthesia. It removed the provisions that exempted notification to a medical examiner of a death where there is reason to believe that a medical examiner will be so notified.

(b) Possessory Liens Act

The amendments to this Act provided for a summary procedure for the sale of goods under $300.00.

(c) Ultimate Heir Act

The amendments to this Act are to provide that the Crown may retain as compensation, income of an estate during the time the Crown takes delivery of an estate to the time of a successful claim or the time at which the Crown becomes the ultimate heir.

8. Law of Property Amendment Act, 1984

The amendments to this Act attempt to deal with the $1 sale situation by allowing for immediate vesting orders in certain situations as well as for orders for a receiver in certain situations.

9. Queen's Counsel Amendment Act, 1984

The amendments to this Act exempt members of the Legislative Assembly or the Parliament of Canada as well as the Deputy Attorney General and a Bencher of the Law Society from the requirements of the Act for appointment as Queen's Counsel.

Future Plans

The Minister has indicated that the Department plans to continue its review of Government regulations to identify those which should be repealed or revised. In addition, the resources of the Department remain available to assist those other Departments seeking advice relevant to their own particular legislation.

1. Personal Property Security Registry

For several years this Department has been studying a proposal for a Personal Property Security Act. In 1980 a Bill was introduced into the Legislature for the purposes of discussion only and was allowed to die on the order paper. The proposed legislation will be based upon the Model Uniform Personal Security Act developed by the Canadian Bar Association and the Uniform Law Conference. The Act would rationalize and modernize whole law relating to security interests and personal property. It would bring together under one registry registration of all such interests and would eliminate the need for registration in three differrent registries, as is now the case. Moreover, adoption of the Act will bring this province into line with many of the other provinces of Canada that have similar legislation.

2. Default Judgment

The Department is currently reviewing a concept called "default judgment". Under this system, individuals who breach provincial traffic offences and/or municipal or federal parking offences will be subject to a different enforcement procedure. At present, if a person fails to appear in court or fails to pay the required penalty, he is subject to a court process. The default judgment system would provide that, in the event of a failure to pay a motor vehicle related fine, the person would not be able to register his automobile or have his driver's licence renewed until such time as the payment of this fine is made. In the event of more serious motor vehicle related offences, for example, a person charged with speeding that resulted in a fatality, the normal court process would continue. The overall concept of a default judgment system will include a more simplified process of handling of motor vehicle related offences.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Alberta Gaming Commission
2. Land Compensation Board
3. Fatality Review Board
4. The Public Service Employee Relations Board

CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Deregulatory Initiatives

The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has undertaken a number of steps in recent years in an attempt to alleviate the regulatory burden on businesses. There has been increased liaison with businesses to discuss deregulatory matters. New and amending legislation was introduced in order to bring specific deregulatory measures into effect.

1. Licensing

A principal move to rationalize and repeal outmoded regulations has occurred in the licensing of trades and businesses. Some 55,000 businesses and salesmen are no longer required to be licensed as a result of the repeal of certain regulations. This has meant savings to the business community (in foregone licensing fees) of over $1,000,000. Those businesses deregulated in recent years include bakeries, cleaning and dyeing companies, hairdressing businesses, photo finishing businesses, restaurants, retail businesses, secondhand dealers, manufacturers of upholstered and stuffed articles, visitor accommodations, wholesale businesses, and salesmen for direct selling companies and auctioneers. The fact that other Government departments, municipalities or agencies already had licensing requirements in some of these areas was, an additional reason for this form of licensing deregulation.

Other deregulatory steps taken in relation to licensing have included the elimination of personal and criminal record checks for licensees, and the termination of interviews with cemetary and pre-arranged funeral services salesmen. The Department has also rationalized certain licensing issue procedures, through, for example, the amalgamation of five application forms into one form. The six Regional Offices of the Department provide convenient locations for application for all Department licenses.

2. Real Estate Business Community

The Alberta Real Estate Association has taken over the monitoring of the real estate examinations from Department staff, thus considerably reducing the Department's involvement in this area.

3. Corporate Registry

With the passing of the Business Corporations Act, the Corporate Registry of the Department has been able to rationalize the procedure for the registration of businesses in the Province, which has resulted in an overall reduction and simplification of filings. The more recent privatization of the name check service is further evidence of the Minister's commitment to deregualtory initiatives.

4. Consumer Credit

In the Consumer Credit field, more flexibility is also being given to interpretation of the law relating to credit advertising. This has allowed businesses which advertise credit terms to do so in a manner which previously would have initiated investigation by the Department.

5. Unfair Trade Practices Act - Standards Development Program

Rather than deal with each and every possible transgression of the Unfair Trade Practices Act, the Standards Development Program issues guidelines to businesses on how provisions of the Act are interpreted. Businesses can then voluntarily amend their advertising, or trading practices, to comply with the Act. Such guidelines cover subjects ranging from repair estimates to price comparison advertising.

The Program meets with business groups and organizations in an effort to make increasing use of voluntary codes of advertising practice, rather than relying upon enforcement of legislation. Such initiatives include assisting the Motor Dealers' Association in the development of an Advertising Code of Ethics, as well as in producing a Uniform Sales Agreement. Program staff also act as non-voting Chairmen of meetings of the Motor Dealers' Association's AUTOCAL arbitration panel, which attempts to resolve auto related complaints without the need to involve regulatory agencies. The number of legal actions under the Unfair Trade Practices Act has decreased during the last year as a result of agreements being reached with individual companies regarding their future advertising. Generally, it is an ongoing objective of the Standards Development Program to continue to seek ways of reducing the regulatory burden on business.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Condominium Property Act

   The Condominium Property Act allows builders to provide bare land condominium projects. Previously, the condominium concept was confined to buildings. Of benefit to both landlord and tenant is the placing of the rate of interest on security deposits in a regulation, thus permitting the rate to be changed, as needed, to meet the current conditions of the market place.

2. Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act 1983

   The Landlord and Tenant Amendment Act 1983 (Chapter 83) permitted the rate of interest on security deposits held by the landlord to be prescribed by the regulation.

3. Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Amendment Act, 1983

   The Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Amendment Act 1983 allowed the rate of interest on security deposits to be set by the regulation.

4. Alberta Regulation 446/83 which became effective on January 1, 1984, prescribed the security deposit interest rate at 8% for both the Landlord and Tenant Act and the Mobile Home Sites Tenancies Act. The placing of the rate of interest in regulation permits the interest rate to be changed, as needed, to meet the current conditions in the market place to the benefit of both landlord and tenant.

5. Real Estate Agents Licensing Amendment Act, 1984

   Licences for approximately 6,000 real estate salesmen were eliminated under the Real Estate Agents Licensing Amendment Act. A real estate registry with a real estate assurance fund to replace the present bonding requirements for agents, will be set up. The registry and fund will be administered by the Alberta Real Estate Association, thus providing the real estate industry with a measure of self-regulation. The removal of bonding requirements will also mean a cost saving to over 1,000 real estate agents, as well as a decrease in paper work for both Government and business.

6. The Qualifications Amendment Regulation 410/83

Regulations have been amended to ease some of the restrictions placed on persons wishing to take real estate examinations or apply for a real estate agent's license.

7. Insurance Amendment Act, 1984

Following a request by the Insurance Brokers Association of Alberta, amendments were made to the Insurance Act to provide for the step licensing (personal lines, commercial lines, then agency management) of brokers. Step licensing is seen as an initial move towards self-regulation by the I.B.A.A.

8. Corporation Statutes Amendment Act, 1984

This Act made provision for certain functions of the Corporate Registry, previously undertaken by Government staff, to be turned over to the private sector, in particular the name searches necessary before a new company can be incorporated. Some 16 small firms have since been established to provide these services to the public.

Associated with this change, certain new Regulations were passed to codify the existing rules with respect to the selection of names for new companies. These rules had previoulsy been followed on a discretionary basis by the Registrar of Corporations, but are now codified to allow the incorporator himself to select an available name. The Registrar's function respecting name selection is now confined only to problem cases.

Inter-Agency and Government/Business Co-operation

The Programs in the Department liaise closely with other Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government agencies in an attempt to reduce duplication in the administration of laws and regulations.

For example, the Department co-operated with municipal authorities in the administration of the Public Contributions Act, thus avoiding duplication of functions. Contact is also made on a regular basis with the Federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in order to minimize duplication in the investigation of unfair trade or marketing practices. In particular, deceptive claims about a product, such as gas saving devices, which are available on a national basis, would be referred to the Federal Department for investigation under the Combines Investigation Act. Conversely, the Federal Department would refer matters solely of Provincial concern to this Department for further investigation.

The Federal Department has also developed a program whereby consumers using our Family Finance Counselling system are now referred directly to a licensed trustee, rather than to the Federal Bankruptcy Office.

The Federal Department has also developed a program to meet with professional and trade associations and bodies at the Provincial and National levels, in order to discuss deregulatory and other issues of mutual concern. In the Standards area, for example, we are in contact on a regular basis with such organizations as the Motor Dealers' Association, the Society of Alberta Home Insulators, and the Alliance of Canadian Travel Agents. The Real Estate and Insurance business communities meet regularly with officials from the Department through such bodies as the Alberta Real Estate Association, the Alberta Mortgage Brokers Association, the Association of Members and Staff of Landlord and Tenant Advisory Boards, the Brokers Association and the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

The Minister is very conscious of the need to ensure that its officials, both at the administrative and program delivery levels, consistently approach the private sector in a courteous and conciliatory manner. All verbal and written communications between investigation officers and businesses are recorded on each file forwarded to Head Office, and should the style or manner of an officer's verbal or written communication with a business fall outside accepted guidelines, then steps are taken to remedy the problem. Program staff make regular visits to Regional Offices to explain the Departmental policy in relation to deregulatory initiatives, while Regional Directors meet regularly in Edmonton to be advised of any changes or amendments to this policy.

Future Plans

1. The Minister has undertaken a thorough review of the Unfair Trade Practices Act, with particular reference to establishing greater responsibility for standardized advertising practises with business and other industry associations in the private sector.

2. The Department should act as a type of consultant, assisting the private sector in determining which activities may be "appropriate", rather than defining in a hard and fast way what is legal and illegal under legislation. This consultation process must respect the Alberta Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs' desire to assure a fair and competitive marketplace for consumers.

3. Improved levels of education will be a major goal for the Department in the next two years, to encourage consumers and business alike to have a better understanding of how best the marketplace can be competitive and fair. It is anticipated that major education efforts will be undertaken to promote smarter businesses and consumers who interact in the marketplace.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Alberta Securities Commission

2. Automobile Insurance Board

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CULTURE

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Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Historical Resources Act

   a. Historical Resources Impact Assessments and Mitigative action which may be requested of development proponents under Section 33(2) of the Historical Resources Act are presently screened for known historic resources or having high potential for historic resources. It is only under these circumstances that an assessment is called for. This department has become increasingly more selective of those developments for which impact assessments are called.

   b. A single window approach is taken to Historical Impact Assessments and Mitigation in order to facilitate response to development proponents. Similarly, Culture co-operates with other departments (e.g., Transportation, Environment) in that it receives and responds to all referrals through a single window. This promotes and facilitates communication between agencies.

   c. The Archaeological Survey of Alberta has largely moved to a verbal reporting and permitting procedure (followed by written submissions) in order to facilitate actions by development proponents. This reduces the necessity of written reportage prior to development.

   d. The Archaeological Survey of Alberta has had the management consultant firm of Touche, Ross & Partners undertake a management study of the branch in order that performance could be improved. This was completed in March, 1984. A follow-up study on systems and procedures is now being undertaken in order to improve response time and project control. This management plan sought input from internal and external stakeholders.

Bills and Regulations

(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Historical Resources Grant Regulations, A.R. 111/78

   These regulations were repealed and substituted by Alberta Regulation 65/83 with the general purpose of widening the provisions and applicability of grants programmes and at the same time lessening the procedural complexity and ambiguity.

2. Department of Culture Act

   Under Library Grants Regulations 105/84 that replaced Alberta Regulation 78/77, application forms for financial assistance were streamlined to reduce the amount of information required and the number of attachments required. This applies to both individuals and to public libraries.

3. Library Act, 1983 cL12-1

   Removes considerable administrative detail governing the way library boards operate and basically gives them authority, as corporations, to manage library service.

4. Amendments without regulatory or deregulatory implications:

   a. Government House Amendment Act, 1983

   b. Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act, 1984

   c. Alberta Art Foundation Amendment Act, 1984

   d. Cultural Foundations Amendment Act, 1984

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. The Department of Economic Development does not administer Acts or Regulations. The Department does, though, administer the Alberta Content Policy which applies to all projects needing Industrial Development Permits. In all projects requiring such permits, the Department peruses bid lists and tendering procedures to ensure that, wherever practicable, Alberta materials and services are used.

   No rigid threshold level has ever been established for content reporting. In the past, permits were only required on larger projects ($100 million or more), although with the trend towards smaller projects, content reporting on smaller projects is occurring.

   Over the past two years, we have reduced the reporting requirements on Alberta Industrial projects in response to requests from industry, and the Department is certainly willing to look at ways by which further progress can be made along these lines.

2. With regard to savings in costs or positions, the Department has reduced its permanent positions by two percent (four positions), as requested by Treasury.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Vencap Equities Alberta Act

   Not regulatory in nature.

EDUCATION

Deregulatory Initiatives

The Minister of Education has undertaken several deregulatory initiatives as follows:

1. The Management and Finance Plan

   Commencing in January, 1984, Alberta Education initiated the Management and Finance Plan. The purpose of this broad undertaking was to improve the quality of education provided to students and to respond to current and anticipated changes in society. In order to achieve these ends, a decision was made to substantially modify the Department's approach to the management and delivery of education.

   As part of the Management and Finance Plan, a number of concurrent changes to Alberta's educational system were proposed for implementation over the next three years. Since the provision of quality education results from a complete set of interdependent and constantly changing factors, the project developed a multifaceted approach. The key components of this strategy were:

   a. Improved information on the results of educational programming available to students, parents, teachers, school jurisdictions and other educational agencies.

   b. Increase responsiveness by the total educational system to the changing needs of students and parents.

   c. Within policy directions established by the Province, increased local responsibility, autonomy, flexibility and discretion by school jurisdictions over the use of provincial funds to meet local needs.

   d. Increased accountability of both Alberta Education and school jurisdictions to the electorate.

   e. Increased efficiency and effectiveness in the use of limited public funds for the provision of education with the focus on providing benefits directly to students.

   f. Enhanced partnership among school organizations and Alberta Education in the planning and evaluation of educational results.

   To achieve these goals, a number of means were developed and are being utilized in a planned and organized manner. The means being implemented include:

a. Development of an improved management capacity for the delivery of public education in Alberta.

b. Simplification of administrative procedures.

c. Reduction in size and complexity of Alberta Education, while enhancing the role of the Regional Offices of Education (ROE).

d. Greater participation in joint provincial/local activities.

e. More avenues for public feedback to and quick responses from Alberta Education.

f. Development and management of provincial and local program and evaluation policies.

g. Existence and management of Local Education Plans.

h. Simplified and improved Provincial Budget Mechanisms.

i. Development and use of School Jurisdiction Annual Reports.

j. Conducting and acting on the results of evaluations and other studies.

Through the collective impact of these changes, it is intended that:

a. The public will have easier access to improved information about educational policies and the results achieved.

b. The information will be used more effectively and continually to improve the quality of education.

2. The School Grant Simplification and Deregulation Project

The School Grant Simplification and Deregulation Project was established during the latter part of 1981 as a joint initiative by Alberta Education and the Association of School Business Officials of Alberta. The Project's mandate was to achieve simplification and deregulation of the school grants program and processing system. The three phases of the Project were described as follows:

a. The first phase was a study to examine the feasibility and desirability of coalescing or combining similar existing school grants.

b. The second phase was a review of the existing grants processing system to recommend alternative methods or options for the simplification and deregulation of the processing system.

c. The third phase was a review of Alberta Education's procedures through which proposals for new school grants were developed and implemented. The objective was to develop and recommend an ongoing process for the development of prospective new grants and for the review of existing grants. Additionally, the third phase examined the possibilities for deregulation and the replacement of existing regulations with administrative policies, guidelines and procedures.

3. The Minister's Task Force on School Finance

The Minister's Task Force on School Finance was established in June, 1981 to study Alberta Education's school finance plan to recommend improvements in the ways and means of funding the education system, and to consider alternatives to the current school finance arrangements. On September 15, 1983, Education Minister, David King, released the final report of the Task Force.

Generally, the report endorsed the current structure for financing Alberta's education system. It did suggest, however, some improvements to the current plan through increased provincial funding.

The Task Force recommendations included: increasing the provincial share of total schooling costs to 85%; providing equitable distribution of tax assessment; revising the per pupil weighting factors in the School Foundation Program Fund instructional grants; and maintaining the current transportation grant formula through increased funding and efficiency measures.

Other recommendations related to special education funding, industrial and business education funding, funding for small schools and small jurisdictions and declining enrolment grants. The Task Force also made recommendations for simplifying grants and for further study of issues such as population density, language immersion programs and early childhood services.

The recommendations of the Coalescence of Grants Study, which were developed during the first phase of the School Grant Simplification and Deregulation Project, were presented to the Task Force membership. These recommendations were accepted by the Task Force and, with the exception of the recommendations to delete the Intern Teacher Grant, were incorporated as part of the Task Force's recommendations.

4. Alberta Education's Reorganization

Early in 1982, the newly appointed Deputy Minister, Reno Bosetti, initiated a review of the Department's structure and organization with the objectives of improving its efficiency and effectiveness, and of improving public access to its services. Additionally, reorganization promoted the decentralization and simplification of decision-making and operations to administrative levels closer to the levels where services are delivered.

A Task Force was established, as part of the reorganization plan, to detail plans for the implementation of the decision-making and tactical planning processes and procedures. The Task Force examined and made recommendations relating to the decentralization, delegation of authority, deregulation and the planning associated with personnel management, financial management, information management and program management.

5. **Delegation of Authority and Responsibility**

Alberta Education undertook primary responsibility for a major review of the School Foundation Program Fund Regulations and the Alberta Education Grants Order to identify areas where delegation of authority could occur, and to identify appropriate accountability mechanisms for those areas recommended for delegation and decentralization within the Department.

It was decided that the authority system within the Department should be delegated and decentralized, and that decisions should be made at the most appropriate level of the organization relative to efficiency and effectiveness. With a view to achieving this overall objective, the review operationalized the principle of subsidiarity: to place the authority necessary to make decisions as close as possible to the operational or functional level. The delegation and decentralization which occurred placed greater responsibility and accountability at the lowest level of decision-making possible, namely the operational or functional unit.

6. **Program Deregulation (Regulatory Review)**

Alberta Education's program deregulation initiative was an internal project established for the purpose of achieving program simplification through the study of alternative methods of program specification, approval, and processing procedures. The general objectives of the initiative were to achieve program deregulation and decentralization in order to simplify public access to departmental services.

An example of Alberta Education's efforts in the area of program deregulation was the recent review of the School Buildings Regulations. It was concluded that deregulation could occur with respect to these regulations, and that deregulation be implemented as part of the proposed 1984-88 school capital plan to become effective January 1, 1984.

Alberta Education's effort in the area of deregulation is part of government's move towards the reduction and simplification of regulations. During May, 1982, Cabinet provided the following guidance to all Departments:

a. The primary consideration should be new or future regulations and/or forms. Individual Ministers and the Cabinet committees should be vigilant in ensuring that we do not overregulate and overcomplicate our forms.

b. With respect to regulations now in place, a review should be undertaken by individual Ministers of the legislation and regulations within their Departments rather than by a Cabinet committee.

c. Forms should be simplified so that only critical information is requested. For example, the "nice to know" request for information must be eliminated.

d. Ministers should also review the form letters that are sent out to the public by their respective Departments to ensure that they are not objectionable.

e. Ministers and Departments must be cautious that they do not react to problems by immediately creating new regulations. Perhaps more questions should be asked before implementing procedures to see if, from a public point of view, these can be simplified.

7. School Act Review

On February 16, 1984, David King, Minister of Education, announced that during the next twelve months, the Government of Alberta will conduct a review of the School Act "for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a system of governance for education compatible with our values, our historic experience and our goals".

The School Act Review process will involve a major review of the School Act that may result in changes or revisions to the Act which should be compatible with the Department's efforts in the area of regulatory reform. Additionally, the review will assist in the other departmental efforts directed toward simplification, deregulation and decentralization.

8. School Capital Funding

The School Buildings Regulation, 1979, has been rewritten (but not yet approved by Order-in-Council) with the objective of reducing regulatory and processing requirements. Only minimum requirements for capital project approval remains in the 1984 School Buildings Regulation. The funding formulas have become part of the School Foundation Program Fund calculations under the School Act. Optional types of information which the School Buildings Board could request has been taken out and placed in the M.F.P. Guidelines and Procedures. As a result, the volume of the School Buildings Regulation has been reduced from 43 to 7 pages.

Additionally, the modernization component of the 1979-83 Building Quality Restoration Program has been included under the 1984 School Buildings Regulation and the section on renovations has been deleted. This enables school boards to plan and carry out major upgrading projects under the one Modernization category.

9. **Building Quality Restoration Program**

As with the School Capital Funding Plan, the Building Quality Restoration Program was reviewed with an emphasis on simplification. Preliminary approval is given to projects which meet the priorities list. This allows school boards an opportunity to get their budgeting in place earlier.

Inspections have also been revised. Initial inspections will be limited; most projects will be subject to final inspections.

The final cost form is mailed together with the project approval letter. This eliminates any time delay for completing the form by the school jurisdiction, once the project is finished.

The level of funding by direct grants has been raised from $50,000 for approved project costs per program year to $100,000. This change allows easier access to funding for school divisions with limited programs.

Bills and Regulations

(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Remembrance Day Act

This Act is a new regulatory requirement, making the observation of Remembrance Day compulsory for all schools and all pupils.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

The new Management and Finance Plan, as well as the other related initiatives, attempted to involve a number of government departments and external public groups in the development of the new approach to the management and financing of education in Alberta. Although the objectives of the initiatives were not to reduce multiple regulation of the same activity, they were directed toward the simplification and deregulation of the existing administrative situation relative to school finance.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

In general terms, the involvement of internal and external personnel in the initiatives of the department has led to a positive, productive approach to regulatory reform. With the major goal of improving the quality of education for students, the more specific goals are directed toward the improvement of the delivery of quality education and the education system. As such, the new Management and Finance Plan will result in: improved information; increased responsiveness; increased local responsibility, autonomy, flexibility and discretion; increased accountability; increased efficiency and effectiveness; and an enhanced partnership in the planning and evaluation of educational results.

REPORTING ORGANIZATION

1. Health Occupations Board

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ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Deregulatory Initiatives

ENERGY RESOURCES

The Energy Resources Sector of the Department has taken material initiatives during the past year to reduce the regulatory burden on the oil and gas industry. In all instances, significant results have accrued to the government by the department working to resolve issues in concert with the industry.

1. **Alberta Petroleum Incentives Plan**

   In the September agreement of 1981, Alberta took over the granting of incentives within the province. While many of the federal provisions were removed, Alberta was not able to eliminate the discriminatory eligibility and adjustment rules which penalize the transfer of grants to non-Canadians. Eligibility was non-negotiable and it is the accompanying rules which make the Alberta Petroleum Incentives Plan complex.

   However, over the past two years, the Plan has worked to eliminate or reduce the impact of these penalties. The culmination of our efforts is evident in the latest regulation amendment which removes most of the adjustment rules. For the Alberta Petroleum Incentives Plan, this has been a major de-regulation.

   a. The Threshold Limit (ceiling on expenses which can be claimed without adjustment rules being applied) was raised to $3 million from $500,000. This is a major exemption from reduction and is important because now over 90% of our applicants (as compared to a previous 65%) do not face adjustment and are eligible to apply under the short application process. This amendment was highly praised by industry.

b. Overhead Expense Policy has always been a thorny issue. Originally, the Alberta Petroleum Incentives Plan followed the federal scheme whereby industry had to clearly define eligible overhead expenses. This proved to be an unwieldy, costly and contentious policy and was replaced by a fixed percentage system which is an automatic addition to expenses claimed. The higher percentage is available to smaller companies and investors. This policy was developed with the assistance and approbation of industry associations.

c. Adjustment Rules - The latest amendment just passed by Cabinet removes most of the adjustments and reduces paperwork for applicants.

Areas removed:

(i) no reduction to an applicant's working interest and thus to his incentive if a net or gross interest is paid to a non-Canadian

(ii) minimum land area is no longer required per well with the ERCB drilling spacing unit sufficient

(iii) unit agreement expenses when applicants are deemed to be receiving an unfair share of unit production no longer adjusted

(iv) a claim where penalty expenses are deemed to be more than "fair market value" no longer adjusted

(v) adjustments deleted when applicant pays a disproportionate share of equipping and post-equipping expenses

(vi) adjustments deleted when applicant incurs acquisition or maintenance expenses

These adjustments have been removed because the Alberta Petroleum Incentives Plan has determined that there is a minimum danger of "leakage" to non-Canadians. Their removal decreases applicants' paperwork and the Plan becomes less involved with the structuring of private sector deals. Remaining adjustments are in line with standard industry practices and affect a minimum of applicants.

d. In order for the industry to fully benefit from regulatory changes, and to further simplify the application process, the Alberta Petroleum Incentives Plan has made extensive administrative changes. As an example, the Plan has removed the time periods required to file an application. Applicants can now apply up to 12 times a year using varying amounts of time per application.

Application forms have been redesigned to reduce the redundancies and to simplify information requests; for example, the amendment to the adjustment rules eliminated five forms. Regulation and administrative changes are explained in laymen's language in a regular newsletter.

2. Freehold Mineral Rights Tax Act

The freehold mineral tax was a property tax from 1973 to 1982, with the tax determined by the assessed value of a pool's reserves. This tax was very difficult to administer since it required forecasting of reserves, production rates, prices and production costs on a pool by pool basis.

With the signing of the Canadian Constitution Act of 1982, the province acquired the right to levy direct taxes. For freehold lands, this meant that Alberta could change the freehold mineral tax to be a direct tax on production. This was considered highly desirable for two major reasons; the first being that it would eliminate administrative complexity and a lengthy appeal process.

The second reason was that a tax on assessed value was not appropriate for a depleting resource, where the asset only has value when it is actually produced.

The Minister, in conjunction with Treasury and the ERCB, undertook a detailed analysis of alternatives in 1982 and 1983. Subsequent meetings with the industry associations and interested companies recommended adoption of the preferred alternative.

The new freehold taxation method ensures equity among freehold owners and lessees using an administratively simple system. The tax is levied on the value of the production where it is received, based on the S curve from the Alberta crude oil royalty formula which implicity allows for operating costs. The level of the tax has been held constant.

The Act, assented to on June 6, 1983, contains provisions which enable the Crown to obtain information necessary to calculate the tax, to conduct any necessary audits of the information provided and to ensure that any information provided is kept confidential. Procedures are provided for appeals and the collection of the tax in the event of default.

As in the case of the previous Act, the details relating to calculation of the tax are dealt with in the regulations. A specific phased-in relief section is provided to deal with hardship cases based on the increase in the level of tax over that which would have been payable under the old Act. In addition, adjustments to deal with conservation or increased recovery provisions can be accommodated.

3. Gas Royalty Administration Project

A proposal, jointly developed by industry and the Department through meetings and evaluation of alternatives from October 1983 has the following key features:

a. Monthly payment of Crown royalty based on a corporate level estimate, on or before the last day of the month following the month of production, supported by detailed calculation, reporting and settlement within the following two months.

b. Accounting for all volumes of gas and products made available for sale and establishing accountability for reporting and paying Crown royalty.

c. Annual accounting for and reconciliation of the difference between volumes available for sale and reported sales, chiefly inventory and injections volumes.

d. Establishing a mechanism for industry appeals of Department assessments for Crown royalty.

e. Utilizing information available within government (ERCB) for volume verification.

Written confirmation of support from the industry associations has been received. All the necessary approvals will be received in time for implementation with January 1985 production.

The benefits to industry and government are material as recapped below:

a. Reduction in Paperburden

    (i) 40% decrease in monthly royalty reporting
        - 20,000 (20%) of initial filings eliminated
        - 60,000 (60%) of amendments eliminated

    (ii) 50% decrease in G.C.A. paperburden as a result of elimination of estimates.

    (iii) Elimination of practice of filing copies of ERCB "S" reports with the Department.

    (iv) Overall reduction in excess of 36%, not including "S" reports, is anticipated.

b. Reduction in Workload

    (i) Potential 40% - 50% decrease in overall workload associated with gas royalty reporting. More than three quarters of the paper reduction is in the labour intensive amendment and correspondence areas.

    (ii) Expected 80% - 90% decrease in accounts receivable maintenance as remittance transactions will be in summary form.

c. Removal of Time Constraints

Industry will now have 3 months in which to prepare detailed royalty reporting.

4. Mines and Minerals Act, 1983

Over the past twenty years, the Mines and Minerals Act has been subject to a series of legislated modifications and additions. These changes arose from various federal/provincial energy agreements and numerous additions directly resulted from our government modifying energy policy.

The administration of the Act was becoming more complex and difficult, especially from the energy industry's perspective in interpreting the various sections and correlating the Act to the Regulations. The 1983 amendments had three overriding objectives:

a. To clarify areas subject to technical interpretation. Simply, this means that those areas requiring complex technical interpretation were clearly spelled out.

b. To eliminate some redundant and outdated provisions.

c. To reorganize and consolidate provisions such as:

(i) Standard definitions
(ii) Regulation-making power of the Lieutenant Governor in Council
(iii) General powers of the Minister
(iv) Issuance of agreements
(v) Royalty policy

The Act was given royal assent on June 6, 1983 with proclamation withheld until May 9, 1984, at which time the corresponding regulation changes were presented.

5. Petroleum and Condensates Reporting

In mid-1982, the Department, after consulting with the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission and the Energy Resources Conservation Board agreed to review the specific legislation which requires industry to submit various data under separate reporting systems designed to satisfy their individual regulatory requirements.

The jointly-sponsored study indicated that the extent of duplication and redundancy was not as large as originally perceived. However, major improvements could be made to reduce the number of amendments or adjustments. There was also a clear need to improve communications between and within government and industry which could best be served by joint resolution of mutual concerns.

The Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission, Energy Resources

Conservation Board and the Minister have addressed the specific recommendations within their jurisdictions and initiatives have been taken in all cases by the three government bodies to enhance and continue to involve industry participation.

ALBERTA FOREST SERVICE

1. **Geophysical Approvals in the Green Zone**

   a. An in-depth review was undertaken of the various operating conditions for seismic and well site operations.

   b. Offer to provide map update service to industry so they will be in a better position to submit applications.

   c. An inter-agency review of operating procedures for companies from the petroleum and natural gas industry operating on public lands has resulted in streamlining of procedures. Furthermore an improved "one window" exploration program has been considered within Energy and Natural Resources in order to simplify procedures and reduce paper work and create a better working environment for the petroleum and natural gas industry.

   d. Senior staff of the Alberta Forest Service are constantly monitoring staff to insure proper attitude is exhibited in administering this public service to the petroleum and natural gas industry. A coordinator is employed within the Forest Land Use Branch to ensure that the conditions are applied consistently and uniformly and to ensure that staff are not being overly bureaucratic in the use and application of regulations and present conditions.

2. **Forest and Prairie Protection Act**

   a. 1978 - Major change in the Forest Protection Area in the Lac La Biche Forest by deleting 463,360 acres of land centered around the Frog Lake area.

   Alberta Regulation No. 105/74 Forest Protection Area Regulation was amended to exclude this area from the Forest Protection Area Regulation No. 231/78.

   The change in legislation resulted in a reduction of fire safety requirements which are peculiar to the forest protection area as spelled out in the forest protection regulations, for example, the requirement to carry fire fighting tools in vehicles, the need for spark arresters on internal combustion engines or the need to maintain specified clearances around some mills, logging camps or other industrial operations or the requirements for incinerators to burn non-industrial wastes.

   Also the change resulted in a reduction of the maximum fines applicable to certain offences under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act from $1,000.00 to $300.00

PUBLIC LANDS

1. The policy changes recently implemented included:

   a. The Minister instituting a policy where lease sites for commercial purposes will not be advertised unless there is a strong demand for a particular type of use. This procedure will result in a simpler process and a much faster decision on leasing of commercial sites.

FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

The Fish and Wildlife Policy for Alberta, approved by Government Caucus and publicly announced in October of 1982, commits the Fish and Wildlife Division "to manage regulatory activities in a manner that is as sensitive as possible to the public which is being regulated".

1. Steps have been taken to reduce numbers of regulations pursuant to the Wildlife Act. A recent amendment to the Game Hunting Regulations incorporated provisions from four other regulations which resulted in the repeal of:

   (i) (A.R.321/67) Antelope Hunting Area Regulations
   (ii) (A.R.184/75) Non-Trophy Sheep Hunting Area Regulations
   (iii) (A.R.256/74) Mountain Goat Hunting Area Regulations
   (iv) (A.R.194/83) Sunday Hunting Regulations

2. Alberta Regulation 424/57 has been repealed providing more flexibility for disposal of forfeitures.

3. Wildlife management units and game hunting zones have been restructured. As a result, hunting seasons have been simplified because there exists fewer exceptions to the general rules.

4. Recent amendments now allow landholders to take immediate action against wolves and beavers which cause problems without requiring the landholder to first obtain a permit.

5. Fisheries legislation is under review and steps will be taken to condense and simplify those regulations.

6 A sub-committee of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council has been identified to assist with regulation simplification.

7. The Division has instituted a "Standards and Procedures" book which will significantly influence the administration of regulatory requirements.

RESOURCE EVALUATION AND PLANNING DIVISION

1. The Aerial Photographic Survey Act was repealed in June, 1983 thus eliminating unnecessary regulation of the aerial survey industry and the requirement for costly submission of copies of all aerial photography to government.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND ADMINISTRATION

1. In 1983, policies and procedures were reviewed to ensure consistency in the manner in which the Regulations are administered and to promptly provide and fully explain rulings in complex cases.
2. In April, 1984 new procedures were introduced to substantially reduce the number of corporations required to submit annual corporate reports (Form 5) to this office.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

ENERGY RESOURCES

1. Oil Sands Conservation Act

   Relates to conservation and waste prevention of oil sands resources and provides for their development. Additionally, it provides for a broader definition of 'oil sands' to create a more positive economic treatment of certain kinds of hydrocarbon deposits.

2. Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Amendment Act, 1983

   Defines 'market development levy' and provides for the establishment and operation of the Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Market Development fund. The purpose of the Amendment is to provide incentives to facilitate the expansion of markets for gas produced in Alberta in the provinces east of Alberta.

3. Department of Energy and Natural Resources Amendment Act, 1984

   Recognizes in statute the office of the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife and clarifies the role of the Associate Minister.

4. Mines and Minerals Amendment Act, 1984

   Provides for the statutory appropriation of moneys necessary to pay for incentive programs relating to the exploration of minerals.

   The legislation also provides a more appropriate association of exploration costs with the royalty revenue generated as a result of the exploration programs funded.

5. Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority Amendment Act, 1984

Expands the scope of the Oil Sands Technology and Research Act to permit the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority to enter into a broader range of agreements in respect of technology.

The amendment will permit the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority to develop technology, obtained from industry, for new applications such as oil shales.

ALBERTA FOREST SERVICE

1. Further major changes in the Forest Protection Area in the Lac La Biche Area resulted when Regulation 231/78 was amended by deleting a further area of 606,720 acres from the Forest Protection Area centered around Metis Colony No. 7.

   Regulation 231/78 was rescinded and replaced with Regulation 414/83.

2. Steps were taken to rescind Section 32 from the Forest and Prairie Protection Act. This Section will be totally deleted from the Act. Persons involved in burning projects which could be the cause of a forest fire can no longer be charged without concrete evidence that their activity actually did cause the fire.

3. Amendment (reduction in size) of the fire control zones along the fringes of the forest protection area.

   The Fire Control Zone Regulations Act. Regulation 507/75 was rescinded and replaced the Alberta Regulation 413/83 which covers less area in the settled areas.

   In future a fire ban or a restriction of fire permits intended for the forested area will affect fewer residents or industrial enterprises, meaning they can continue to carry out certain burning projects pertaining to their operation while the ban is in effect.

4. Change in policy when ministerial orders restricting open fires are passed under section 21(B) of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act.This policy affects all residents on and near the forest protection area. Ministerial orders now have a subclause attached which excludes private lands on which the resident is residing from certain fire restrictions. Previously they were affected by the fire ban.

   Certain Ministerial Orders banning open fires apply now only to crown lands. This permits persons in private campgrounds, group camps or residents on their own lands, including summer residences, to have camp fires.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. The Public Lands Amendment Act, 1984 repealed and amended certain sections of the Act.
    a. The most significant amendments were the repeal of Sections 82 to 85 of the Public Lands Act which pertained to Homestead Sales. The sale and leasing of agricultural lands are now provided for in the Farm Development and Homestead Regulations. The elimination of the Homestead Sales provisions makes agricultural dispositions less restrictive in terms of government control over residency and timing of farm development.
    b. Further deregulation has occurred through a policy that removes the residency requirement on existing homestead sale contracts.
    c. Amendments to Section 3 of the Act clarified the ownership of waterbodies. It is clearly stated that bodies of water must be both natural and permanent to be retained by the Crown. Consequently, the amendment results in owners of land adjoining or surrounding non-permanent bodies of water that are not lakes, streams or rivers being able to fully control the use of such waterbodies without reference to the Crown.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

ALBERTA FOREST SERVICE

The Forest Service meets frequently with such organizations as the Alberta Forest Products Association to review requirements and discuss their implications. Most proposed legislation is first reviewed with the forest industry so the rationale for it is understood and to obtain an expression of their concerns. As a result of this communication, a solid working relationship has been established.

PUBLIC LANDS

1. A completed inter-agency review of standard operating conditions attached to land dispositions issued to the petroleum and natural gas industry was made, which resulted in the development of less restrictive and more site specific operating conditions.
2. Close consultation by inter-agency groups also resulted in faster approval time for all surface dispositions, especially in the area of oil and gas.

ALBERTA BUREAU OF SURVEYING AND MAPPING

1. In June, 1983, the Alberta Bureau of Surveying and Mapping signed a Memorandum of Co-operation with the Federal Surveys and Mapping

Branch, to achieve closer co-ordination of programs. This co-operative arrangement provides for technical co-ordination of program delivery and exchange of surveying and mapping data and related information. Negotiations are underway to acquire distribution rights for federal maps, which will improve public service and provide a single focus for all map distribution in Alberta. These negotiations will be concluded during the 1984/85 fiscal period.

2. The Surveys Act, a regulatory statute which establishes the requirements for the survey of land in Alberta, is being reviewed and rewritten for simplification and increased flexibility. Professional land surveyors will be given greater discretion in the use of alternative practices and procedures. The new Act is to be tabled at the Fall session of the Legislature in 1985.

RESOURCE EVALUATION AND PLANNING DIVISION

1. The integrated resource planning program for public lands and resources has substantially increased interdepartmental co-operation. The program, in addition to identifying economic and social opportunities, minimizes land use conflicts, increases interdepartmental awareness of programs and interests and provides the necessary preparation for improved coordination and efficiency in land management and development. Once consensus is reached on a plan by participating departments and agencies, consequential regulation is much more efficient and well coordinated.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND ADMINISTRATION

1. Since 1982, coordination has been achieved between this Division and the Alberta Department of Manpower and the Federal Department of Immigration (including Canadian immigration offices abroad) with respect to advising and assisting prospective immigrants interested in acquiring controlled land in Alberta.

2. An information package is being developed jointly by Alberta government agencies and industry and landowner groups to provide a "one source" information service for landowners dealing with inter-agency surface rights matters.

Attitudes of Regulatory Officials

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Regulatory officials have, through meetings and close consultation with associations such as the Canadian Petroleum Association (CPA) and the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada (IPAC), developed a better understanding of industry and government requirements. The Public Lands Division is considered to have a generally good working relationship with industry and the public.

Increased Regulatory Activity

PUBLIC LANDS

1. Where necessary, regulations will be recommended to control the inappropriate use of vacant public lands. For example, the indiscriminate use of all-terrain vehicles on sand dunes and other areas susceptible to erosion must be controlled.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND ADMINISTRATION

1. Land Agents Licensing Act and Regulations
   a. In 1982, new Regulations were introduced which require an applicant for a license to obtain an interim license, write examinations and comply with stipulated standards of conduct. Although this represents an increase in regulatory activity, these changes implemented widely endorsed recommendations of the Select Committee to review Surface Rights.

Future Plans

ENERGY RESOURCES

The Minister is currently addressing a number of major energy policy issues. The focus on regulatory and administrative simplicity is of paramount importance to accomplish the targeted growth and progress of the oil and gas industry.

FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

A new Wildlife Act has been passed and will be proclaimed in the near future. The new Act will facilitate preparation of much simplified regulations.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND ADMINISTRATION

Future plans include further review of the Regulations with a view to expediting exemption requests and generally simplifying the Regulations.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission
2. Alberta Oil Sands Technology & Research Authority

ENVIRONMENT

Deregulatory Initiatives

The Minister of Environment has undertaken a series of reviews and actions in an attempt to facilitate regulatory reform. This has resulted in a number of suitable proposals, repeals and amendments.

1. Alberta Water Resources Regulations

   An internal review of the Water Resources Regulations has been completed. As a result of this review it was apparent that certain parts of the Regulations were redundant, confusing, or both.

   A proposal has been forwarded for policy consideration which will:

   a. repeal a number of regulations which are unnecessary and obsolete;

   b. streamline the fee structure.

2. Water Power Regulations

   A review of the Water Power Regulations is being undertaken. A proposal will be made to clarify, repeal, and simplify the regulations.

3. Ice Cutting Regulations

   These regulations, which governed the use of natural ice for commercial purposes, were repealed in 1981.

4. Administration of Statues Related to Mining Development

   The Department has also prepared draft guidelines for processing of applications for development and reclamation approvals for mining development in Alberta. Draft guidelines are also being prepared for the administration of surface water for mining developments. In addition the Department has undertaken an internal review of the approval process and monitoring activities. Implementation of the report recommendations will provide better co-ordination and streamline the Departments' activities by providing a one window approach.

5. Land Surface Conservation and Reclamation Act

   Over the past year, an indepth review has been undertaken of the Act and associated Regulations to remove all redundant and unworkable aspects of the legislation. The Minister proposes that major revisions be made to the Act, that is, five regulations would be combined into one. In addition, clearer and simplified reporting requirements will be set out in the guidelines. In order to more effectively co-ordinate the Department's activities, a review of the Departments' internal procedures has been completed and administrative changes are being implemented to provide a co-ordinated approach.

6. Regulated Lake Shoreland Development Operations Regulations

   These regulations were originally initiated by the Department to ensure co-ordination of developments and maintain public access to lakes. Currently two lakes remain under the purview of the legislation. Development controls by the Department on the other lakes has been removed and now is the responsibility of the local authorities under the Planning Act. It is anticipated that all lakes will be removed from the regulated Lake Shoreland Development Operations Regulations.

7. Beverage Container Act

   During the past year, regulations were amended which exempted all beer containers from the legislation. A Beverage Container Council consisting mainly of industry representatives was recently established to advise on further legislative changes. Their report is to be completed shortly.

   It is the Minister's desire to have the industry become more self regulating, thus minimizing government involvement. Unfortunately, there is a wide variety of competing interests, and government involvement to resolve these differences has been requested.

8. Litter Act

   Legislative changes have been proposed by the Minister which would provide for local municipal councils to be the appeal mechanism for clean-up orders rather than the Province.

9. Objective Setting - Rather than utilize regulations for all permit applications the Department changed its approach by establishing guidelines or objectives which are to be met. This procedure allows the applicants or their engineers considerably more flexibility in the methods chosen to meet the objectives, and it substantially reduces the processing time.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Environment Statutes Amendment Act, 1983

   Provides Department authority to release monitoring data collected in Industry and submitted to the Department in accordance with the licences issued under the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Providing the monitoring data to the general public will result in more work by Department staff both in the preparation of the report and in the follow-up discussions that can be expected.

2. **Agricultural Chemicals Amendment Act, 1984**

   Amendments have recently been approved which standardize application forms and provide the Province with the flexibility to include restrictions on permits, on a case by case basis. This flexibility reduces the need for re-application if inappropriate forms or procedures are used, therefore minimizing public frustration and paperwork.

   These amendments also authorize the Department to provide training programs or examinations to determine the competence of pesticide or chemical applicators.

   The amended legislation also permits greater flexibility in changing the status or classification of chemicals.

3. **Pesticide Applicator Licencing Regulation**

   The purpose of this regulation is to protect the environment as well as the people of Alberta and their property from the hazards of chemical pesticides by ensuring that people who apply pesticides on a commercial basis are trained, knowledgeable and covered by bond or insurance. Twelve classes of pesticide applicator licences are offered, ranging from structural pest control to aerial application.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

1. Environment has initiated mechanisms with other Departments and Agencies (e.g. Agriculture, Transportation, and Energy & Natural Resources) with a view to improving overall communication and co-ordination related to departmental statutes. Inter-Agency communication and co-ordination is intended to reduce unnecessary regulation and irritation to the public. These initiatives are ongoing.

2. Over the past few years, this Department and the Energy Resources Conservation Board have undertaken a review of the guidelines and procedures for obtaining energy development approvals. This review focussed on the one window concept and clarified and streamlined many of the regulatory activities. The Department, the Board, and the Department of Energy & Natural Resources will be conducting a review of all shared procedures to further co-ordinate mutual responsibilities.

3. A review was undertaken by industry, government and the public of the Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines. Many of the recommendations have been implemented and others are being considered.

4. A number of Department/Industry Committees continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of concern. These Committees continue to benefit the Department in co-ordinating and streamlining activities and also improve government-industry communication.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

We agree that the attitude of the regulator is a key element in the public's perception that a regulation is fair or not. Our approach has been to accentuate the "service" in "Public Service". Employees are encouraged to be sensitive to the public's concerns, be informative, and avoid being drawn into arguments when dealing directly with the public. Periodically, staff are brought together for a discussion and re-emphasis of our role as servants of the public. Temporary staff are also trained as to appropriate attitudes and methods of dealing with the public.

Increased Regulatory Activity

1. Hazardous Chemicals Act

An amendment was passed by the legislature in 1982. Regulations are currently being prepared which will expand the purview of the Act to cover all aspects of handling, transportation, and disposal of the waste from the site of origin to the waste treatment site. This list of regulations will increase the public's responsibilities and costs in handling hazardous waste.

2. Special Waste Management Corporation Act

This Act was passed in 1982, and proclaimed on April 1, 1984. The establishment of the Special Waste Management Corporation Act provides the corporation with the right to control all waste from site of origin to the special waste plant. The establishment of this Act and these regulations will also expand the public's requirements and costs in handling of hazardous waste.

3. Agricultural Chemicals Act Regulations 213/80, 214/80

The purpose of the proposed changes to these regulations are to ensure that the commercial applicators and the dispenser of pesticides across the counter are trained and competent in the proper and safe use, handling, disposal, and storage of pesticides.

The regulations provide a legal basis for the Departments' training programs. The changes increase the governments involvement and public's requirements to meet regulatory standards.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Environment Council of Alberta

2. Natural Resources Co-ordinating Council

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council Office has no regulatory function, except through the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

REPORTING ORGANIZATION

ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. **Oil Proration System**

   The Energy Resources Conservation Board initiated a 1983 review of the need for its oil proration system given the then prevailing market situation. It concluded there was a continued need for the system but made a number of administrative changes to simplify its operation.

   Some 600 Alberta pools were placed on "good production practices", thus removing regulatory restrictions on the producing rate. Additionally, the basic production rate for all wells in the province was increased and this had the effect of adding a large number of wells to the group which cannot produce greater than the basic production rate and thus do not require a regulatory control in terms of producing rates.

   A further review of the need for the continued prorationing of oil will be carried out in the coming months.

2. **Production Accounting System**

   The Energy Resources Conservation Board has recently reviewed its Production Accounting System, as it does on a regular basis. Some of the changes which are considered result from suggestions by industry and others reflect ERCB initiatives. The more significant changes were as follows:

(a) The ERCB changed its procedures and no longer requires the industry to file copies of production reports at the field offices. This reduced paper flow considerably.

(b) The ERCB discontinued the requirement that operators include marketable gas as part of their production reports. This significantly reduced the amount of work, particularly with respect to detailed calculations, that the industry must carry out and file with the ERCB.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Oil Sands Conservation Act

This legislation was passed in December 1983 and at the same time, oil sands matters were deleted from the Oil and Gas Conservation Act. No significant changes resulted in terms of the regulatory burden.

2. The Pipeline Amendment Act, 1984

This amendment removed low pressure gas distribution lines from the jurisdiction of the ERCB. It has significantly simplified the approval process. The changes were made as a result of an ERCB initiative.

3. The Hydro and Electric Energy Regulations,
409/83

These were new regulations instituted in 1983. There were no regulations previously in effect and these replaced a series of statistics reporting and other requirements which were set out in letters or directives.

The regulations now consolidate and clarify a number of requirements but do not add to the regulatory burden. They simplify certain reporting requirements, eliminating a duplication that existed with respect to Alberta Environment. Also, the Regulations exclude small wind-powered power plants from the provisions of the Hydro and Electric Energy Act.

This matter was initiated by the ERCB.

4. Coal Conservation Regulation
72/84

This new regulation established a requirement for a licence for external discard dumps with respect to waste coal. It is an additional requirement, but actually has a simplifying effect in that it now allows applications for a dump to be handled separately from applications for a coal pit.

5. Oil and Gas Conservation Regulation, 399/83

This new regulation imposed controls over oil field waste management and oil reclamation facilities. It increased the regulatory controls, but at the same time clarified responsibilities for these facilities.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

1. **Coal Mines**

Procedures were formalized to better co-ordinate the involvement of the ERCB and the Mines Inspection Branch (Occupational Health and Safety) in areas of mutual concern respecting coal mines. This resulted in a system of co-ordinated review of applications and the issuance of deficiency letters. Also, joint inspection of operations has now been instituted and the ERCB geotechnical experts provide consultation to the Mines Inspection Branch.

Procedures were also formalized to better co-ordinate review of applications and the approval process with the Dams Safety Branch of Alberta Environment.

These reviews were initiated by the ERCB and the changes eliminate duplicate applications and approvals.

Increased Regulatory Activity

1. **Critical Sour Wells**

Procedures were instituted, as a result of the Lodgepole Blowout inquiry, to more strictly regulate the drilling of critical sour wells. This resulted in a large increase in regulatory controls for a relatively small number of wells. Wells are defined as critical if they could release very large volumes of hydrogen sulphide to the atmosphere or if they are within or immediately adjacent to large urban developments and would release lesser volumes of hydrogen sulphide.

Future Plans

1. **Coal Mine Approval Process**

A review of the entire coal approval process is being planned. It will be followed by a review of the Coal Conservation Act and Regulations and the issuance of revised manuals on how to apply for

Coal Mine Approvals. This review will involve other government departments and the industry.

2. **Pipeline Approval and Information System**

A new pipeline approval and information system is being planned which will significantly reduce the information required in support of applications for pipelines. The Pipeline Act, Regulations and procedures documents will all require amendments.

Some of the changes will be implemented in 1984, with a full implementation scheduled for 1985. The process is now underway and the suggested changes are currently being reviewed with CPA and IPAC to obtain their input.

3. **Sweet Gas Plants**

The ERCB, as a result of submissions to the Regulatory Reform Committee, participated with Alberta Environment in a Task Force respecting the approval process for small sweet gas plants. The Task Force recommended changes which would reduce the number of approvals required.

4. **Common Purchaser and Rateable Take**

The ERCB plans to request changes to the Common Purchaser and Rateable Take portions of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act. The changes would modestly simplify the system and, more importantly, remove the statutory requirement for a public hearing in every instance.

5. **Electric Transmission Lines**

Discussions are taking place with Alberta Environment and Energy and Natural Resources to improve the referral procedures for electric transmission line applications. The discussions were intitiated by the ERCB and the changes being considered would reduce the application processing time.

6. **Small Coal Mines**

The ERCB has proposed changes to the existing regulations which require the submission of mine plans for small mines every year. The Board has suggested that such plans be required only every five years and the matter is under review by Alberta Environment.

FEDERAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs has no regulatory function, nor is it responsible for any Boards or Agencies.

Interjurisdictional Issues

The interjurisdictional aspects of regulatory reform were recognized at the 1978 First Ministers' Conference on the Economy, at which an agreement was reached that "the burden of government regulation on the private sector should be reduced and the burden of overlapping federal and provincial jurisdictions should be eliminated." The First Ministers decided to refer the issue of economic regulation to the Economic Council for recommendations for action. Recommendations would evolve from consultations with the provinces and the private sector.

The Economic Council of Canada released its final recommendations in its report, entitled, "Reforming Regulation," on June 11, 1981. The Government of Canada, in a recent document entitled "A New Direction for Canada: An Agenda for Economic Renewal," supplemented the Economic and Fiscal Statement delivered in the House of Commons by the Honourable Micheal Wilson on November 8, 1984. The new federal perspective on regulatory reform is considerably broader than the one taken by the Economic Council of Canada.

In June, 1984 a ten-year Canada-Alberta Economic and Regional Development Agreement was signed. One of its major objectives is the promotion of "joint planning and joint action where it would be advantageous to reduce duplication and unnecessary regulation". A number of areas are currently under review in the natural resource sectors.

In addition, the federal government has signalled its intention to reform regulations on international trade and foreign investment. Reducing regulations in these areas is important to enhancing Alberta's international competitive position.

The acknowledgement by the federal government of the need for federal/provincial coordination to reduce overlap and duplication is an opportunity for demarcating more clearly the jurisdictional responsibilities of the two orders of government.

HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CARE

Deregulatory Initiatives

During this period there were no specific initiatives taken by this Department toward deregulation or that resulted in reduced regulation.

Bills and Regulations

(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

The following Bills were passed, all of them without any deregulatory implications, in the view of the Department:

1. Provincial General Hospitals Amendment Act, 1983
2. Hospitals and Medical Care Statutes Amendment Act, 1983
3. Cancer Programs Amendment Act, 1984
4. Hospitals and Medical Care Statutes Amendment Act, 1984
5. Medical Care Statutes Amendment Act, 1984

Seventeen substantive regulations, none deregulatory in nature, have been implemented.

HOUSING

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. The amalgamation of two Crown corporations (Alberta Housing Corporation and Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation) into one corporation under the name Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

2. The current thrust of the Department of Housing is to review, consolidate and reduce where required the number and scale of housing programs and to further increase the reliance upon the private sector for providing housing throughout Alberta.

   The review is focussing upon:

   - reducing the duplication of planning activities
   - streamlining the native housing delivery systems and providing a "one-window" approach.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation Act

   This act amalgamated the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation and the Alberta Housing Corporation into one corporation under the name Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

2. Senior Citizens Housing Amendment Act, 1984

   Permits senior citizen lodge foundations to levy an interest penalty on any requisitions which are not paid within 90 days after notice of the amount of the requisition is given to the municipality by the foundation. There was no deregulatory aspect to the Amendment.

3. Housing Grants Regulation

   Regulation 204/84 rescinded and replaced Alberta Regulations 82/77, 190/80, 280/82 and 399/82 and consequently transferred and amended where noted the affected regulations from the Housing and Public Works Act to the Department of Housing Act. Within the Housing Grants Regulations, alterations were made to the Alberta Pioneers' Repair Program which clarified qualifying repairs and reduced regulatory activity with respect to the delivery of grants.

Increased Regulatory Activity

On July 16, 1984 it was announced that the Heritage Fund Mortgage Interest Reduction Program will be extended by one additional year, ending on August 31, 1985 to those homeowners with qualifying household incomes. The extension of mortgage interest assistance will apply to substantially fewer households than did the original program, however, the need to determine eligible household income may require an increased level of regulatory activity.

Future Plans

Pending the completion of the review of the Department of Housing subsequent actions may identify the need for further deregulatory initiatives.

REPORTING ORGANIZATION

1. Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Deregulatory Initiatives

Concurrent with the amalgamation of the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation and the Alberta Housing Corporation into one entity a review of policy, programs and administration is underway in order to identify potential areas of future deregulatory activity.

LABOUR

Deregulatory Initiatives

MEDIATION SERVICES

1. Labour Legislation was amended to eliminate the compulsory use of Mediators. Legislation now reflects this flexibility. Mediators can be requested on a voluntary basis or at the discretion of the Minister (1981).

   Legislation used to dictate that parties obtain the services of a Conciliator, if they were unable to settle their collective agreement differences on their own, and contemplated strike or lockout action. Compulsory Conciliator recommendations and time frames were removed to eliminate any complications or frustration that may have resulted as unnecessary to the parties.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

1. Passage of the Employment Standards Amendment Act, 1984 requires an interested party to post a sum of cash with the Branch Director before commencing an appeal of an Order of an Officer to the Umpire.

   The Amendment was designed to uphold the original intent of the Umpire System, that is to provide a timely, inexpensive and informal hearing process. The high number of frivolous or unwarranted appeals will be reduced. The effectiveness of resolving disputes between employers and employees will be enhanced to the benefit of both parties.

GENERAL SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION

1. The plant quality assurance manual, developed in co-operation with the Manufacturer's Association for Relocatable Buildings, reduced the need for inspections.

2. Guidelines for professional engineers were developed in conjunction with APEGGA to enable professional engineers to assume greater responsibility for Code compliance with respect to design of metal buildings and site review during construction.

3. A simplified one page power line contact reporting form was developed for use by utilities and the Electrical Protection Branch in recording the various types of accidents. It is intended that it be computerized for easy recovery.

4. Effective April 1, 1984 the issue of Elevator Inspection Certificates with the requirement for posting them in elevator cars was discontinued. This has reduced clerical work-load and permitted the

redeployment of one Clerk I-II. In the long term it will result in a cost saving through not having to purchase and process a special form.

5. The Alberta Fire Code Regulation was filed May 2, 1984. The regulation consolidated 6 separate Alberta Regulations and eliminated all municipal fire safety by-laws thus providing uniform fire safety regulations throughout the Province.

6. Gasfitters Certification Regulations were amended so as to allow a refrigeration mechanic to carry out maintenance work on the gas section of combination heating and cooling units. Prior to the amendment it was necessary to hire a refrigeration mechanic for the cooling section and gasfitter for the heating section.

7. Natural Gas Service Lines Regulations were amended so as to:

   a. allow residential garages to be constructed over plastic service lines. Prior to the amendment service lines had to be relocated at considerable expense.

   b. allow higher pressure in service lines thereby substantially increasing capacities, and

   c. to allow gas pressures up to 80 p.s.i.g. through a single gas pressure regulator rather than requiring two regulators.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

1. Employment Standards Amendment Act, 1984 Section 77(1).

   a. Director's Demand - This Amendment requires the Director's Demand to the Third Party to specify an amount. Director's Demand is usually served on financial institutions and the Amendment now requires a specific amount. This will assist greatly in eliminating problems caused by Director's Demands with an unspecified amount (Open Demand).

      With an Open Demand, the Third Party was required to retain and bring forward on a regular basis, the Demand to determine whether or not it could be honoured at any given time. The Amendment will eliminate the resource time previously required by the financial institutions in order to comply with this legal document.

2. Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act

   The Firefighters and Policemen Labour Relations Act was retitled the Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act. The firefighters were removed from this Act and placed under the Labour Relations Act. The

Policemen Labour Relations Act was amended mainly to give recognition to the fact that there are a substantial number of female police officers in the province.

GENERAL SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION

1. Alberta Building Code Amendment Regulation, Alta. Reg. 406/83 came into force on November 30, 1983 and consolidated airport vicinity protection area construction requirements to attenuate aircraft noise into one document from 9 documents under the Planning Act.

2. Adoption of the 14th Edition of the Canadian Electrical Code, Part 1 with amendments. (Alta. Reg. 278/83). The number of amendments to the new Canadian Electrical Code which supersedes the previous edition has been reduced from 16 to 11. The deleted amendments were considered unnecessary or incorporated into the new Canadian Electrical Code.

3. Fire Training School Allowance Regulation (Alta. Reg. 295/83) filed July 21, 1983. Increased the subsistence and travel amounts for pupils attending the Alberta Fire Training School.

4. Witnesses and Interpreter Fees and Expenses Regulation (Alta. Reg. 296/83) filed July 21, 1983. The regulation updated the fees and expenses paid to witnesses attending fire inquiries and repealed the requirement for standard forms when reporting fires and writing orders.

5. Alberta Fire Code (Alta. Reg. 151/84) filed May 2, 1984. Consolidated 6 separate Alberta Regulations and eliminated all municipal fire safety by-laws.

6. Gasfitters Certification Amendment Regulation, (Alta. Reg. 11/84). Deregulatory aspects were identified in item 6 above.

7. Gas Protection Amendment Regulation (Alta. Reg. 127/84). Deregulatory aspects were identified in item [illegible] above.

8. Propane Burning Appliance and Equipment Installation Regulation, (Alta. Reg. 26/84). The amendment to this regulation did not involve deregulatory aspects.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

PENSION BENEFIT BRANCH

1. The Alberta Government is a party to two agreements, one with the government of Canada, the other with those provinces having legislation similar to the Pension Benefits Act. Both agreements provide for the reciprocal registration, audit and inspection of pension plans. Under these agreements, a pension plan subject to the legislation of more than one authority is supervised by the authority that has jurisdiction over the greatest number of plan members. This

means that an employer who has a pension plan for employees in more than one jurisdiction is not required to file the pension plan for registration with each jurisdiction but only in the one jurisdiction where plurality of plan membership exists.

GENERAL SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION

1. Transfer of construction requirements to reduce interior noise levels were transferred from 9 regulations under the Planning Act and consolidated into one set of requirements under the Alberta Building Code.

2. Meetings between the Electrical Protection Branch and 3 municipal agencies (Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge) were held to discuss uniformity in application of safety standards and administration of programs.

3. Provided assistance of City of Medicine Hat in establishing workable by-laws for local electrical code enforcement consistent with provincial standards.

4. Improved co-ordination between the Elevators, Electrical and Building Standards Branches has resulted in the elimination of duplication of requirements in several areas and thereby provides more efficient service to clientele.

5. An Alberta Fire Code has been requested by municipal fire departments for over a decade. Its development will provide a regulation which is uniform and consistent, is cost effective, and has a built in review and update procedure thus eliminating the time and cost previously borne by individual municipalities.

6. Communication and co-operation was substantially improved between the Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch and municipal inspection authorities. All of the plumbing and gas municipal inspection authorities in Alberta are members of and play an active role in technical advisory committees. As a result plumbing and gas regulations are uniformly applied throughout the province.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

1. The word "forthwith" is used extensively through the enforcement provisions of the Employment Standards Act.

   The private sector expressed a concern over the Branch's interpretation of this provision when an employee terminated his own employment.

In response to concern, the Branch adopted the following policy when termination of employment occurred.

(a) Employee terminates with cause and without notice - Payment is due not later than the next regular pay day.

(b) Employee terminates without notice - Payment is due not later than the next regular pay day.

(c) Employer terminates employee without cause and without notice - Payment is due on the last day worked.

GENERAL SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION

1. Emphasis was given at the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch supervisors meetings and the annual inspectors meeting to replacing the former strict enforcement attitude of inspectors with an attitude of assisting the public in the promotion of safety through branch programs.

2. The Building Standards Branch held 10 seminars on administrative procedures for municipal building inspectors in which emphasis was placed on the need for an attitude of co-operation rather than confrontation in resolving problems that arise during construction and the elimination of unreasonably punitive measures to obtain Code compliance.

3. Four meetings with senior municipal building inspectors were held to resolve common problems that they had encountered in their own municipalities.

4. Ten workshop/seminars on selection and installation of solid fuel stoves and fireplaces were held throughout the province for contractors, inspectors and installers.

5. Meetings of the Manufacturer's Association for Relocatable Structures were attended by several members of the Building Standards Branch to resolve problems in Building Code interpretation and application.

6. An in-service meeting of all Electrical Protection Branch inspectors was held to discuss uniform and consistent application of regulations and safety standards; also to reiterate and discuss the philosophy and procedure for delivery of programs. To receive feed-back and suggestions from all sectors of the electrical industry, technical schools and municipalities, a Provincial Advisory meeting was held in February with a follow up session planned for the early fall. These meetings serve to resolve any interpretation problems and provide background for meaningful changes to wiring and equipment standards. Meetings were also held with standing committees who are responsible for power utility safety standards.

7. The attitude of inspectors was addressed at staff meetings of the Elevators and Fixed Conveyances Branch to make personnel aware of

Government concern in this area and the need for a proper approach in dealing with owners, operators and the public.

8. The Fire Prevention Branch held seminars with municipal fire authorities and Branch inspectors. The philosophy of regulation application was a major topic at the seminars.

9. Inspectors of the Gas and Plumbing Safety Services Branch received instructions at technical meetings and conferences enabling them to recognize the importance of their individual contributions. They are provided with appropriate training which emphasizes a public relations policy based on mutual courtesy and respect.

Increased Regulatory Activity

PENSION BENEFIT BRANCH

1. The proposals for changes to the Pension Benefits Act, contained in our recent public paper, are further regulatory initiatives rather than deregulatory initiatives. However, with the review of the Act, it is hoped that certain improvements or deregulation can be made in the area of paper burden on employers.

GENERAL SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION

1. An amendment was made to the Canadian Electrical Code to recognize a new concept in wiring; a flat conductor cable for undercarpet use in open space areas such as office buildings.

2. Requests for inspection of electrical equipment has increased mainly because more unapproved and potentially unsafe equipment from other countries is finding its way into the Alberta market place.

3. Because of the trend to convert vehicles from gasoline to propane, regulations were developed and adopted to cover the technical safety aspects of the conversion. A monitoring of inspection program was introduced at conversion stations throughout the Province.

Future Plans

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

The Branch, in the next few years, will endeavour to complete a review of the following regulations:

(i) Oil Well Servicing Regulation 74/81
(ii) Ambulance Drivers and Attendants Regulations 77/81
(iii) Adolescent and Young Persons Employment Regulation 82/81

The goal is to consolidate and simplify the regulations to insure that they correspond to the industries' (employer/employee) needs, in today's economy and social setting.

GENERAL SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION

1. Deregulatory Initiatives

   a. Proposed revisions to the Engineers' Regulations include reducing experience requirements for persons to qualify for a Special Boiler Operator's Certificate examination. Proposed revisions to the Pressure Welders' Regulations include introducing provisions for all authorized manufacturers to conduct additional performance qualification tests for pressure welders. Simplifying fee schedules in the Design Regulations.

   b. A study is proposed in all Electrical Protection Branch regulations and amendments in an effort to delete obsolete references and consolidate others during the next year.

   c. Part III of the Utility Regulations will be revamped to remove anomalies, obsolete sections and regulations duplicated by Occupational Health and Safety.

   d. Quality Assurance Systems will be implemented in connection with Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch programs resulting in cost savings for the government through reduced Manpower requirements.

   e. The Fire Prevention Branch's long range plan is to continue to promote greater local involvement in inspection and prevention programs. The limited number of provincial inspectors would provide assistance and advice to local authorities, follow-up on complaints and conduct special inspections as directed.

   f. It is proposed to achieve safety objectives while at the same time reducing the size of the Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch through quality control programs and efficient management.

   g. It is proposed to ensure that plumbing and gas safety standards will not become more restrictive through input at the national and provincial committee meetings.

   h. It is proposed to work with the propane gas industry to develop a program for the retesting of cylinder valves. Currently these valves are scrapped at 10 year intervals when the cylinder is retested and requalified. This will result in considerable savings to consumers.

2. **Inter-Agency Co-operation**

   a. Promotion among other jurisdictions of uniform standards for the examination of engineers and pressure welders.

   b. Promotion among other jurisdictions of uniform standards for the design, installation and construction of boilers and pressure vessels through the Association of Chief Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors and Canadian Standards Association.

c. Consider transfer of construction requirements for swimming pools from Environment to the Alberta Building Code.

d. Consider transfer of construction requirements from regulations under the Health Act to the Alberta Building Code.

e. Review regulations under other Acts for potential overlap or inconsistency with requirements of the Alberta Building Code in order to reduce proliferation of regulation of the construction industry.

f. Continuation of co-ordination of regulation of all activities to ensure that different branches do not become involved in regulating the same thing.

g. It is intended to continue to work with municipalities and other branches of government to ensure there is uniform application of plumbing and gas requirements. It is planned to ensure that municipal inspection authorities have an opportunity to provide input into the adequacy of and adoption of plumbing and gas installation requirements.

3. **Attitude of Regulatory Officials**

a. Continue programs to improve inspectors' attitudes in dealing with the public through supervisors and staff meetings, emphasizing replacing an attitude of enforcement with the object of assisting the public in the promotion of safety within the scope of the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act.

b. The Building Standards Branch is planning workshops and seminars for municipal inspectors that will help them to improve their image, improve their oral and written communication and help them to understand their role of being a source of information and assistance rather than as a "policeman".

c. The Electrical Protection Branch will continue to communicate through seminars and meeting with representatives of municipalities and their own staff for uniformity and consistency in program delivery.

d. Fire Prevention and Fire Officer courses at the Alberta Fire Training School will focus on teaching municipal fire authorities and provincial fire inspectors methods and philosophies of proper fire regulation application and how to effectively deal with the public.

e. The Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch plans to continue to provide employee training programs at meetings and conferences, impressing on the employee the need for good public and industry relations. It is also planned to work carefully with municipal authorities with regard to the application of regulations.

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LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD

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While the Board has been unable to greatly reduce the number of regulations over previous years, it is safe to say that the Board is fully aware and is continuing in its efforts towards this goal.

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. The Labour Relations Act received major amendments in 1980. Several major changes at that time related to the inclusion of municipal fire departments and their employees. The former Firefighters and Policemen Labour Relations Act was amended in the fall of 1983. Firefighters were removed from this Act and placed under the Labour Relations Act, where they will be administered by the Labour Relations Board and have the benefits of various provisions in the Act that they did not have previously. Among these provisions are sections dealing with collective bargaining, including the duty to bargain in good faith and unfair labour practice provisions.

2. The Board has adopted a more structured policy in its scheduling of applications requiring formal Board hearings. The Board will generally determine the dates of hearings without prior consultation with the affected parties. Should there be a conflict with these parties, the Board will grant one adjournment. This policy has accelerated the process and has enabled the Board to conclude applications at a considerably shorter period of time than previously. It has also provided a much better utilization of Board members' time.

3. The Labour Relations Act provides an appeal mechanism whereby a party to a matter previously heard may apply to the Board asking the Board to reconsider its original decision. The Board has now implemented a practice whereby upon receipt of an application of this type, the reconsideration question will be brought before a Board panel, a panel different from the one which originally heard the matter. Previous to the implementation of this practice, many applications for reconsideration were denied on the concept of "due diligence". That is to say, the Board previously would deny the reconsideration application on the basis that the evidence was available at the time the matter was originally heard, the "due diligence" concept then eliminated any possibility of that evidence being presented subsequent to that original decision being presented. The present system provides for a more structured appeal system where parties can argue the matter before a responsive tribunal.

4. The Board continues to distribute its Information Bulletins to interested parties. The 18 bulletins presently available lay out policy and procedures resulting from the Board's interpretation of the various sections of the Labour Relations Act. This set of

bulletins has been distributed to over 900 separate parties in the Province. This information has been very well received and has greatly assisted the Board administration in providing guidelines for parties wishing to appear before the Board. These bulletins have also significantly reduced the number of frivolous applications which were received prior to the distribution of this material.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

For the year ended July 30, 1984, no legislative activity to report. The same can be said for Regulatory Activity - no increase.

The Commission has prepared a paper with recommendations to amend the Individual's Rights Protection Act. It is hoped in introducing these amendments that the end result will lead to reduced regulations in the area of Human Rights.

MANPOWER

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Manpower Development Act

   a. (i) Under this statute private sector employers and employees have control over the content, timing and review of trade regulations and the inter-relationships amongst these regulations. The process involved means that any such regulations are not government initiated or imposed.

   (ii) The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board (made up of representatives of the public, employers and employees) scrutinizes any regulations proposed by the established private sector committees and subsequently advises the Minister. This approach has ensured reasonable brevity and simplicity in regulation content and also ensures the inclusion of those specific items identified by the stakeholders.

   b. Greater cooperation has been achieved during this past year between Alberta Manpower's Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Division and the Department of Labour's Gas Protection and Electrical Protection Branches. This has eliminated considerable overlap of activities and has simplified operations.

c. This past year has involved a sharply increased demand by the industry for increased enforcement of the terms of the regulations to appropriately protect both the employers and employees involved.

2. Employment Agencies Act

a. In prior years each agency was visited annually to review compliance with the legislation. Labour Standards Officers completed reports before licences were issued. This requirement was eliminated several years ago, resulting in less demand on the operator's time and also in a reduction of government travel and manpower costs.

b. This legislation is currently under review by the Minister to identify possible further de-regulation.

c. Excellent working relationships and cooperative activities have been developed between Alberta Manpower, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and Labour with respect to the administration of this legislation. This has meant that, in most instances, any problems involving compliance with the regulations have been worked out with the private sector without the need for litigation.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Manpower Development Act, 1983 (SA 1983 c 85)

a. Removed the requirement for a minor's parent or guardian to sign a contract of apprenticeship; this eliminated problems in obtaining such a signature from out-of-province parents or guardians.

b. Removed the requirement for a Local Apprenticeship Committee to make recommendations respecting the granting of credit for previous training. This eliminated the necessity for special meetings and speeded up the training process.

2. Student and Temporary Jobs Assistance Act

Although this appeared on the Order Paper, it is not now intended to introduce this Bill.

3. Regulations

None of these can be identified as "de-regulatory" in nature.

a. Department of Manpower Act

(i) AR 314/83 - Manpower Grants Regulations

- Made provision for the Minister to make Program, Cost-Shared, and Special Purpose Grants.

(ii) AR 315/83 - Vocational Training Grants, Donations and Loans Regulations.

b. Manpower Development Act

The following new regulations or amendments were approved, as requested by the industry committees involved.

(i) AR 360/83 - Cook Trade Amendment Regulation
- Increased the number of years of work experience required by one year.

(ii) AR 361/83 - Lather Trade Amendment Regulation
- Increased the number of years of work experience required by one year.

(iii) AR 362/83 - Power Lineman and Power Electrician Trade Regulation
- Changed the name and nature of the trade to Power Lineman.
- Permits authorization of employment of additional apprentices.
- Increased the number of years of work experience required by one year.

(iv) AR 363/83 - Power System Electrician Trade Regulation
- Regulation for this new trade which was designated in May 1983.

(v) AR 368/83 - General Amendment Regulation
- Designated the new trade of Landscape Gardener and changed the name of the Lather Trade to the Lather-Interior Systems Mechanic Trade.

(vi) AR 419/83 - Barber Trade Regulation
- New Regulation consistent with the other Regulations under the Manpower Development Act.

(vii) AR 420/83 - Refrigeration Mechanic Trade Amendment Regulation
- Clarified the definition of the trade.

(viii) AR 421/83 - Water Well Driller Trade Amendment Regulation
- Increased the number of hours of work experience required by 1800 hours.

(ix) AR 422/83 - Beautician Trade Regulation
- New Regulation consistent with the other Regulations under the Manpower Development Act.

(x) AR 90/84 - Insulator Trade Amendment Regulation
- Increased the number of years of work experience required by one year.

(xi) AR 91/84 - Plumber Trade Amendment Regulation
- Increased the number of years of work experience required by one year.

(xii) AR 92/84 - Recreation Vehicle Mechanic Trade Regulation
- Regulation for this new trade which was designated in May 1983.

(xiii) AR 133/84 - General Amendment Regulation
- Designation of the new Cement Finisher Trade.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Deregulatory Initiatives

Items 1 to 6 below are intended to reduce the complexity of the planning process, particularly for small developments.

1. The Planning Amendment Act contained a number of amendments to the Planning Act designed to better accommodate development activity.

    a. Elimination of land dedication for public transportation (L.R.T.) systems;

    b. Reduction of land dedication for environmental reserve purposes;

    c. Clarification of provisions pertaining to amendment of municipal off-site levy by-laws to accommodate variations in servicing catchment areas.

    d. Requirement for more definitive disclosure pertaining to purpose and derivation of municipal redevelopment and off-site levies.

    e. Introduction of provisions better enabling the equitable distribution amongst benefitting developments of the front-end capital costs of over-size capacity in trunk service systems.

    f. Streamlining of procedure for time extensions on approved subdivisions.

2. Application by the Alberta Planning Board of Revised Guidelines for Regional Plan Preparation and Adoption (1981) to the finalization of regional plans resulting in more policy-oriented and less regulatory regional planning instruments.

3. Measures aimed at improving the planning process include:

    a. the study of "red-tape" in the planning process. This study was completed mid-1984. It identified potential areas where "bottlenecks" may exist in the system;

    b. preparation and dissemination of a series of brochures ("Make Planning Work for You") designed to better inform private and public practitioners as to how the planning system operates in Alberta.

        (i) Planning in Alberta - A Guide and Directory

        (ii) Planning and the Law - A Citizen's Guide

        (iii) Planning Your Community (regional plans, general municipal plans, area structure plans, land use by-laws, etc.)

        (iv) Development (permits, applications, appeal process)

        (v) Subdivision (application, processing, appeal process)

4. Participation (with universities) in the development and delivery of training programs for Municipal Development Officers with emphasis on negotiation vs. "rule-book" approach to dealing with development proposals.

5. Participation with Municipal Development Officers Association in the preparation of a handbook-type manual designed to better ensure expeditious processing of development applications and agreements.

6. Preparation of educational and training program for Municipal Development Appeal Board members.

7. The Local Authorities Election Act, assented to June 6, 1983, combined in one Act the provisions for the election of municipal councillors, school board members and hospital and nursing home board members. These were previously included in the Municipal Election Act, School Election Act and regulations under the Hospital Act. This provided a single reference source for the conduct of all local elections and reduced the number of forms involved by more than fifty percent.

8. The Airport Vicinity Protection Area Regulations have been amended to reduce the number of regulatory inspections required to ensure conformance with noise standards.

9. Electric Power and Pipe Line Assessment Act - The regulation prescribing standards and methods for the assessment of oil and gas well machinery, equipment and downhole pipe (Alta. Reg. 89/75) was repealed and substituted by a revised regulation (Alta. Reg. 467/83). The revised regulation prescribes standards and methods for the assessment of this class of property which greatly reduces on-site inspection, inventory and computation requirements. The revised standards will effect a reduction in manpower costs at the municipal assessment level and in the ratepayer or property owner's requirements to report status, inventory, and review of assessment values.

10. Senior Citizens Renter Assistance Program - The pre-printed application form, introduced in 1982, has relieved the senior applicant of annually completing a form and has reduced the average time required to issue cheques from twelve weeks to four weeks.

11. Municipal Assistance Grant - In 1984 a new distribution formula was initiated which is simpler to explain and understand and which produced a more equitable distribution of grant funds among municipalities.

12. Obsolete Regulations - Twenty-two obsolete or redundant regulations have been repealed in 1984.

13. In 1983 a study committee made twenty recommendations to the Minister aimed at promoting understanding and improving the equalized assessment process, with particular emphasis on simplification and timeliness. In earlier 1984 Alberta Municipal Affairs and Alberta Education jointly conducted a series of eleven seminars across the province to explain the process to local municipal and school officials. Preparation of equalized assessments has been speeded up and other recommendations have been implemented.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. County Amendment Act - enabled cities to be an educational unit in a county school system and made other refinements to the Act.

2. Drayton Valley Townsite Repeal Act - repealed an obsolete Act.

3. Municipal Government Amendment Act (No. 2) - Refinements to coordinate with Local Authorities Election Act and elimination of 60 day waiting period for certificate of approval for debenture borrowing.

4. Property Tax Reduction Amendment Act - Exempted vacant residential land from the school foundation levy.

5. The Municipal Financing Statutes Amendment Act, assented to May 31, 1984, streamlined the process for approving municipal debenture

borrowing bylaws. These need now be approved once by the Local Authorities Board. This has reduced the amount of paperwork and the time required to gain approval.

6. Planning Amendment Act - Addressed areas of conflict between developers and local planning agencies and simplified the process for extending approval periods when developers could not proceed as originally scheduled.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

The article, "A Word With You," was published in the Municipal Counsellor. Tom Forgrave, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Municipal Administrative Services, in this article, discussed the role of municipal elected and appointed officials and department staff.

Future Plans

1. **Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Taxation Act, 1984**

   A Bill is being prepared for introduction at the 1985 Fall Session which will contain several amendments for the purpose of clarifying present assessment legislation. It is expected that clarification will promote better equity and improve interpretation of the legislation involved.

   Among the proposed amendments is one which will authorize use of existing data for preparation of subsequent general assessments thereby considerably reducing on-site inspection requirements.

   Another proposal will eliminate the requirement that each municipality forward copies of the business tax bylaw to the department.

2. **Provincial Assessment Manual - 1984 Edition**

   Under section 6 of the Municipal Taxation Act, the Minister is authorized to make regulations prescribing standards and methods for the guidance of assessors in making assessments for property tax purposes. An updated edition of the Provincial Assessment Manual is being prepared for use commencing in 1985. A major thrust of the new edition, to be prescribed prior to year end, is the adaptation of many innovative procedures to streamline the computation process of assessment values. Combined with legislative amendments, outlined above, the new procedures are expected to effect an increase in productivity without lessening equity among properties liable to property taxes.

3. Recommended establishment of an advisory committee to further review development agreement practices involving representation from both the private and public sectors.

4. Recommended extension of "red-tape" study to explore avenues for streamlining the planning process.

5. Continuing review of existing regulations and identification of those which may be repealed.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Special Areas Board

2. Agricultural Relief Adjustment Board

3. Assessment Appeal Board

3. Assessment Equalization Board

4. Local Authorities Board

5. Alberta Planning Board

NATIVE AFFAIRS

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Native Affairs does not administer any Acts or Regulations but as one of its functions does disperse a considerable amount of project grant funding. During this past year, we have entered into annual contractual arrangements with most major Native organizations. This has eliminated the need for numerous individual project grant applications throughout the year. As an example, the Native Friendship Centres now require only one annual contractual agreement as opposed to, in some cases, approximately 20 separate project grants.

   This initiative has provided the incentive for Native organizations to more fully plan their activities on an annual basis as well as reducing the "paper burden" of the application and approval process.

   With the reduction of paperwork, departmental staff can now concentrate on the developmental aspect of programming and this provides a more positive working relationship with the Native organizations.

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

The Personnel Administration Office does not carry out a regulatory function affecting the citizens or business community of the province in the traditional sense. However, as a support to the departments in the personnel area, the office is most anxious to be helpful in achieving overall corporate and departmental regulatory reform objectives and would respond positively to any initiatives undertaken by departments in this regard.

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LEGISLATION

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Health Occupations Amendment Act, 1983 (No. 2)

   Three further occupational groups, Nursing Assistants, Rehabilitation Practitioners, and Acupuncturists, were designated. This is the first step in giving these occupations recognized status, which will occur after public consultation, and the approval of Regulations specific to each occupation.

2. Dental Professional Act

3. Chiropractic Profession Act

4. Physical Therapy Profession Act

5. Veterinary Profession Act

   These four Acts are major revisions of existing legislation governing these professions. Each Act has been brought up to date, and made to conform with the Government's policy respecting professional legislation, which includes the principles that the profession should be basically self-governing, that there should be public (lay) representation on the governing council, that the Universities Co-ordinating Council should participate in setting educational requirements, and that the rules of natural justice (including access to the Courts) should apply to professional disciplinary matters. These Acts will be proclaimed in force when the necessary Regulations, specific to each profession, have been prepared through public consultation, and approved.

6. Public Service Employee Relations Amendment Act, 1983

This Act permits the appointment of two alternate chairmen of the Public Service Employee Relations Board by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It empowers the Board to decide whether a person is included or excluded from a bargaining unit for the purposes of the Act and provides that persons who are training to become members of specified professions shall not be included in a bargaining unit except in certain circumstances outlined in the Act. It permits the Board to conduct a vote of employees if more than one trade union has applied for certification as a bargaining agent for the same group of employees.

7. Regulations under the Nursing Profession Act:
AR 453/83, AR 454/83, AR 455/83, and AR 456/83

These four Regulations provide the necessary details to complete the process of giving the Nursing Profession the status of a recognized profession. The new Act and Regulations were proclaimed in force January 1, 1984.

PUBLIC WORKS, SUPPLY AND SERVICES

Deregulatory Initiatives

Alberta Public Works, Supply and Services provides internal services to government, and as such does not have regulations which directly affect the public.

The Minister has received a submission from the Construction Association advising that they have formed a committee to study the Public Works Act. This may result in some recommendations for changes in the coming months.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Amendment Act, 1984

   Not regulatory in nature, in the view of the Department.

RECREATION AND PARKS

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. The Provincial Parks Act and Regulations

   The Provincial Parks Act was amended in the Spring Sitting of the Legislature, 1983. Substantial improvements were made in the organization and clarification of the Act without increasing its volume. Administrative items which were previously dealt with by the Cabinet as a whole through an Order-in-Council may now be more efficiently dealt with by the Department. The revised Act also provides the Minister with more flexibility to manage contracted services.

   Public service provided for in the Act may now be handled in a streamlined manner. The private sector will be involved more effectively in program delivery.

   In keeping with the amendments to the Provincial Parks Act, the corresponding regulations to the Act are also being amended. A standardized fee structure for provincial campsites is proposed.

   Also the organization of what had, over time, become a patchwork of regulations will result in a much simpler regulation both administratively and in its wording for public understanding. Many of the regulations were clarified to resolve past problems experienced by the public when visiting provincial parks, i.e. campsite reservations.

   The Dispositions Regulations under the Provincial Parks Act are being reviewed with the intent of consolidating some categories. Similarly the fees associated with the dispositions will be reviewed and combined where feasible. The Department is also looking at the possibility of using other provincial legislation to meet our needs rather than duplicating regulations.

2. **Recreation and Parks Act - Grant Regulations**

In drafting grant regulations for more recent programs, requirements have been kept to a minimum with an attempt to reduce the regulatory burden on grant recipients. Guidelines have been used where regulations previously were in place resulting in much more flexible grant programs. Procedures related to grant applications have been streamlined and simplified.

A recommendation has been made to combine a number of current regulations under a single program further easing the regulatory burden on applicants.

3. **Campsite Reservation System**

The Department of Recreation and Parks has implemented a Campsite Reservation Program aimed at providing an efficient system to allow equitable access to camping opportunities for all park users. This year the system has been modified from a "mail-in, pre-paid" system to a "phone in" program based on the following criteria:

a. a need to fine-tune and simplify the system;
b. administrative efficiency;
c. reduced operation costs;
d. ease of understanding and utilizing the program by the public; and
e. fairness and equitable access for users.

By making a phone call directly to one of the nineteen provincial parks on the program, park patrons are guaranteed a campsite on arrival, assisting campers in planning their vacation with a degree of certainty.

4. **Management of Research and Collection Activities**

The Department of Recreation and Parks amended its policy on the Management of Research and Collection Activities on lands under the Department's administration this past spring. Certain research activities have been deregulated and will no longer require a permit. Another major change is that responsibility for management of research and collection activities, including the issuance of permits, has been decentralized and delegated to the director level in the department's five provincial park regional headquarters.

A change in procedures has reduced the amount of time required to process permit applications and has thereby improved service to the public. Applicants can now deal directly without the region which is empowered to issue the permit without involving head office in Edmonton.

With the changes to this policy it will no longer be necessary for certain other agencies to apply for a permit. For example, the Canadian Forestry Services will no longer be required to obtain a permit for forest disease and parasite investigations within provincial parks and recreation areas.

5. Firewood Procurement

With the overall objective of reducing the actual cost of supplying firewood in parks, the Department implemented a program this year whereby firewood was purchased directly from local suppliers for $50.00 per cord. In addition to obtaining a more cost-effective supply, the program provides an opportunity for local public participation. The program featured advertising in the major daily and local weekly newspapers, display of posters and, for the first time, direct payment by cheque at the local level.

The program encouraged local involvement and attracted a number of suppliers with limited capital. Over two hundred suppliers participated in the program. Direct payment eliminated the normal government purchase payout lagtime which also encouraged public response.

6. Contracts

Department contract policies and procedures have been documented and a Guideline Document for contracts is nearing completion. A review of standard contracts will be undertaken and new standard contracts will be developed, where required, to simplify the contracting process.

The Department is a member of the Interdepartmental Committee on Security, Holdbacks and the Public Works Act and has adopted a policy fairly consistent with the recommendations made by the Committee. Construction contract documents are subsequently being revised based on Public Works standard documents. This is intended to simplify documents and through consistency with other Departments to provide documents which are easier for Contractors to understand.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Deregulatory Initiatives

(March 1982 - April 1983)

1. Implementation of the use of contracts for agencies supervising Day Care and Family Day Homes. Requirements for proper care are set out in the contract, removing the need to have detailed Regulations.

2. The policy restricting ward adoption to married couples was deleted.

3. Elimination of unnecessary licensing requirements for Day Care Centres, Residential Facilities, Institutions, Foster Homes, and any other Social Care Facility serving more than three clients.

4. Decentralization of Social Services programs (into six Regions) has resulted in:

   a) simplified communication with clients, and

   b) services being more responsive to local needs.

5. Simplification and clarification of manuals for use by both Departmental staff and agency operators respecting Rehabilitation Services, Residential Services, Family Relations, Day Care and Mental Health Services.

6. The simplification and reduction in the number of forms completed by clients for Child Welfare, Mental Health, Social Allowance and Family Relations Services.

(May 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. The Income Security Policy Manual has been rewritten to eliminate redundant policies and procedures. Further simplification is underway.

2. Day care licensing has been decentralized, allowing more accessibility and responsivity to local needs.

3. Day Care operators' contracts have been simplified, and multiple forms have been combined into a single form covering day care operating allowance, family subsidy and specialized funding for integrated day care.

4. Collection of debts related to the Income Security Program has been transferred to Alberta Treasury. This eliminates the duplication of a function in two separate departments.

5. Simplification and integration of applications from farmers for income security benefits is anticipated.

6. Repeal of obsolete acts related to Old Age Assistance, Provincial Disability Pension, Blind Persons' Allowance and Disabled Persons' Allowance will take place once all recipients of benefits under these acts are deceased or agree to receive benefits under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act.

7. A single application for financial assistance for education and training related to Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons, the Students' Finance Board, Alberta Vocational Training Centres and Social Allowance benefits is being developed and will be implemented in Fall 1985. All agencies involved will be responsible for cost-sharing on a case-by-case basis.

8. Amendment of the Social Care Facilities Licensing Act is being planned in order to eliminate duplications of inspections by staff of this Department and collateral inspection authorities in other provincial government departments and municipalities.

9. There are nine Provincial Board of Health Regulations with respect to food at present. Currently a committee is drafting new legislation which would incorporate all food regulations into one regulation.

10. There are five Provincial Board of Health Regulations in respect to nuisances and similar Environmental Health problems. Currently a committee is drafting new legislation which would incorporate nuisance regulations into two regulations - one regulation to address solid waste disposal, the second addressing all other nuisances.

11. The Aids to Daily Living program has been streamlined, resulting in smoother delivery and less waste.

Bills and Regulations
(May 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Child Welfare Act - The current Act is not specific about the level and nature of services to be provided, which could result in overly intrusive services. The new Child Welfare Act (assented to May 31, 1984) requires emphasis on support and restricts intrusive measures.

2. Public Health Act - The New Public Health Act (assented to May 31, 1984) incorporates and updates the provisions of six Acts pertaining to Public Health. In addition, the new Act reflects the elimination of overlapping jurisdiction with Labour and Environment, primarily in the area of public inspections.

3. Marriage Amendment Act - This Act provides that the Minister, in lieu of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, may appoint marriage commissioners and marriage license issuers. In addition, terms of appointments of commissioners and license issuers are limited to five

years which eliminates a proliferation of these officials, some of whom may no longer be practicing.

4. Alberta Aids to Daily Living and Extended Health Benefits Regulation (Proclaimed May 2, 1984) - This Regulation incorporates three previous regulations and several Orders in Council.

5. Marriage Act Regulation (soon to be proclaimed) - This Regulation reflects changes in the Act and is an updated and condensed version of the current archaic Regulation. Forms not prescribed under the Act were removed from the regulation and will be authorized by the Department.

6. Home Care Regulation (proclaimed August 1, 1984) - Although this regulation's primary objective is to authorize expanded home care services, revisions included deletion of:

    a. mandatory advisory committees (they now may be established at the discretion of the local board of a health unit), and

    b. an elaborate fee schedule for support service payments which is replaced by a simplified approach which provides service free of charge to designated low income groups and to all others at a low flat daily rate.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

1. Co-operation is occurring between this Department and the Departments of Environment, Agriculture, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Labour, and Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation to eliminate multiple regulation of the same activities, with respect to matters relating to public health.

2. Standards for rehabilitation centres are being developed jointly with the Alberta Association of Rehabilitation Centres.

3. Day Care Operators are being involved in development of the day care standards which were recommended by the Cavanagh Board of Review.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

1. In order to improve the effectiveness and consistency of enforcement of regulations by public health inspectors:

    a. an educational program is being developed for the purpose of instructing all public health inspectors on the intent of the regulations and an appropriate way of communicating this intent to the public; and

    b. when a new regulation is developed or a current regulation is substantially amended, information seminars will be held for all public health inspectors to acquaint them with the changes and to inform them of the intent of the new regulation.

Increased Regulatory Activity

1. Shelter ceilings for the Social Allowance Program were moved from regulatory procedures to regulations in July 1983, in order to improve the accountability and consistency of the service.

2. Public Health Regulations - Regulations are being developed under the new Public Health Act outlining:

   a. programs which must or may be provided by health units, and

   b. financial and administrative matters relating to health units.

   These are new regulatory initiatives which will prescribe the parameters of a process by which the health units may be held accountable to the Government concerning expenditure of public funds.

3. Child Welfare Regulations - regulatory initiatives under the new Child Welfare Act will relate to:

   a. Rules of Court, and

   b. Delivery of Child Welfare services.

   A major objective of the regulations is to improve accountability and standardization in a decentralized system.

4. Reshaping of all social services programs will be undertaken in the next two years. A major objective is to improve accountability and standardization in a decentralized system by increasing regulatory procedures (standards), and in some cases, Regulations.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission

Although AADAC does not have regulatory authority in the sense of specific regulations, it does administer a variety of programs, all of which have procedures and requirements that impact on the public.

Deregulatory Initiatives
(May 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Flexibility in responding to acute problem situations has been increased. This has been achieved through:

   a. some additional training of personnel in entry point positions.

   b. clarification of authority to handle problem situations at the entry level.

2. Accessibility of services has been re-examined.

3. There has been an effort to simplify program requirements.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

1. Conflicting accountability requirements have been virtually eliminated for private agencies receiving government support from several resources.

   a. Social assistance allowances formerly paid by the Department to AADAC funded agencies for eligible clients are provided by AADAC as part of our block funding arrangement. This has substantially reduced the paper burden in affected agencies.

   b. Funding agencies, previously shared by the Solicitor General or AADAC, has become the sole responsibility of either. This has greatly simplified accountability in the affected agencies.

   c. Several previously cost shared programs between AADAC and the Federal Governments Native Alcohol and Drug Program have likewise become the sole responsibility of one of the organizations.

The Attitude of Regulatory Officials

Effective communication between personnel and the public has been ensured in the past through meetings, discussions, and special training seminars.

Increased Regulatory Activity

1. Increasing the number of private agencies are becoming part of AADAC's computer based client data system, and they have agreed to use AADAC's forms and procedures.

2. The private contractor operating the Alberta Impaired Drivers Course is providing data on each registrant to allow monitoring and planning of new initiatives. However, the costs incurred in this data collection are part of the contract and are paid by AADAC.

SOLICITOR GENERAL

MOTOR VEHICLES DIVISION

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. **Legislative Initiatives**

   a. Over the past 3 years, a significant effort has been made to synthesize all the legislation administered by the Motor Vehicles Division into one Act. This includes the Motor Vehicle Administration Act, Off-Highway Vehicles Act and The Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act. This has required a detailed analysis and review of each section within each Act to ensure it is necessary. The consequence of this has been that, once combined, a number of duplications and redundant areas will be identified and eliminated thereby substantially reducing the complexity and disorganization of the Statute.

   b. As well as the significant benefits that were discussed above, amalgamating germane legislation will also serve to reduce the number of regulations necessary. This too will have very positive implications for the general public and for special interest groups like the Alberta Trucking Association.

   c. A number of regulations under the Motor Transport Act have been reviewed from an enforcement perspective. Many of the issues examined were highly problematic from the public's perspective. Good progress has been made towards effecting legislative changes which would serve to clarify many contentious issues on the part of the motoring public generally and especially the trucking industry. Specifically, agreement has been reached between departments on how best to eliminate problematic and redundant areas. In some cases this has already been done while other issues are expected to be resolved shortly.

2. **Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund Privatization**

   This matter has recently been made the subject of an RFD. If the recommendation made to privatize the Fund is endorsed by Cabinet then an amendment will be made to the Insurance Act in the Fall sitting to incorporate into the Standard Automobile policy much of the coverage currently being offered by the Fund. This will cut down significantly on the bureaucracy since a person would then be free to pursue a claim with his own insurer. Citizens would also have an ability to select the type of coverage they might wish. Obviously such a move to privatize would represent tremendous savings to the taxpayer.

3. **Default Judgment**

Discussions are continuing between personnel from this Department and the Attorney General's Department on the matter of default judgment. Current plans are to make increasing use of civil remedies in the enforcement of outstanding summonses and parking tickets. One of the primary strategies will be a withholding of motor vehicle services until such time as any outstanding matters have been cleared up. Such a program has not, to this point in time, been possible due to the degree of automation necessary. Over the next few months such a capability will exist with the new M.V.D. system. This movement to use civil remedies and thereby to decriminalize the process should greatly enhance our ability to serve the public while concurrently offering a substantially less complex manner in which conflict can be amicably and expeditiously resolved. This program is premised on the concept that any outstanding parking or traffic matter may be cleared up through any M.V.D. Office.

4. **Liens Registry (Personal Property Registry)**

Discussions are also currently underway between staff from this Department and the Attorney General's Department with respect to the location of the Liens Registry or the Personal Property Registry.A number of special interest groups (e.g., The Alberta Automobile Dealers Association) have asked if public service could be streamlined at this Registry. The vast majority of registry information relates to motor vehicles, and hence some simplification would result if the Lien Registry and the Motor Vehicles Registry were combined.

Further, with a move to automate all Motor Vehicles Division Offices, lien information would be available on a completely decentralized basis - a situation which would be helpful to the public. The savings to government would be substantial.

5. **Accident Reporting**

Over the last few months the accident report used in Alberta was revised and severely edited. This form was intended for use only in the case of injury or fatal accidents, with the police community free to use whatever abbreviated version of this form they wished to record property damage accidents.

The net effect of this will be a tremendous saving in police manpower costs as well as far greater simplification for the public since they would receive a copy of the accident report at the time of completion as opposed to having to make an application for it through the M.V.D. at some later time. Further, through negotiated arrangements with the police departments, they are now releasing reports directly to the public over the counter rather than telling citizens to apply for a copy through M.V.D. in Edmonton. This change has received good public support and has permitted cost savings to the government and much greater ease to the public.

6. **Penalties**

A comprehensive review of financial penalties under legislation administered by the Motor Vehicles Division culminated in March of 1984 with an amendment to the Violation Ticket Regulation under the Summary Convictions Act. The amendment reflected more than merely a general increase in the amount of fines. Rather, the approach used was to simplify and streamline the penalty gradients. For example, the number of different fine amounts was reduced while at the same time preserving historical balances. In practical terms, it will result in a more consistent and equitable fine process among the legislation administered by this Department.

7. **New Motor Vehicles Division Computer System/Reorganization**

Over the next few months the people of this Province will start to see the results of the new Motor Vehicles Division computer system. In addition to the 11 Motor Vehicles Division issuing offices throughout the Province, private issuers are also going to have direct on-line access to the Division database.

Thus a significantly expanded service will be made available to the public. For example, it will now be possible to have a permanent operator's licence and registration printed up right on the spot. Further, Division search information can be obtained in a completely decentralized mode. As indicated previously, this enhanced and greatly simplified service will be accomplished through a reorganization of the Motor Vehicles Division into 5 Regions.

8. **Motor Transport Board/Motor Vehicles Division Interface**

In an effort to simplify and deregulate the service to the public, discussions are on-going to explore automating data currently being maintained by the Motor Transport Board. With the appropriate automated interface the possibility would then be opened up for expanded service to the trucking industry. Additionally, the Division would be able to access requisite data (on such things as operating authority, insurance, etc.) before issuing licence plates without having to place the onus on an individual to provide this information or without the delays imposed by having to contact Red Deer authorities by telephone.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

Recent substantive amendments have been made to the following Regulations:

1. Off-Highway Vehicle Amendment Regulation 212/84

2. Motor Vehicle Administration Act Amendment Regulation 211/84

3. Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Act General Amendment Regulation 210/84

4. Motor Vehicle Administration Amendment Order 214/84

5. Public Vehicles Registration Fees Regulation, 1984/85
Amendment Regulation 215/84

These changes resulted not only in the removal of obsolete requirements but also enabled such changes as:

(i) Staggered Vehicle Registration - This became effective October 1, 1983. Currently 2.25 million applications must be processed in a two month period. The benefit to the Motor Vehicles Division is that it will now be able to split this workload into 12 equal groups. This will save on the hiring of temporary staff and reduce many errors caused by the restricted time frame.

The benefit to the trucking industry is that it will lessen the financial impact of renewing all of their fleet at the end of each registration year, which may be during a carrier's low cash flow period.

The system is based on first letter or numeric value of a company name or individual name. These will be placed in groupings designed to average the workload throughout the year. A new licence plate, coloured blue, orange and silver, will be issued to all renewals.

(ii) Vehicle Classification Changes - at present there are 24 different licence classifications. The new program will reduce this to four basic classes and 3 optional classes. This will considerably simplify administration for the trucking industry as well as the Motor Vehicles Division. The new system is expected to reduce costs of administering this program within the government and for the industry as well.

(iii) Permanent Trailer Plate - there will be no fixed expiry date on all trailer plates. The trailer plate will be transferrable between units and will have a one time only cost of $25.00.

(iv) Permanent Fleet Registration - a permanent licence plate with no fixed expiry date can be obtained only from the Division's Edmonton office. This plate can be purchased for renewal on a quarterly basis. Once the vehicle has been registered it will be given a permanent plate and a registration expiring at the end of the renewal period, i.e. quarterly, biannually, annually, etc . At the end of that period a list will be mailed by Division detailing the previous registration information and the amount of payment due. If there are any changes in the registration information, the carrier is to note them on the form. The form is then to be returned with the appropriate payment to the Edmonton Division. The licence plate would at all times remain with the vehicle and no stickers would be necessary.

(v) Operator Medical Requirements - Currently holders of Class 1, 2 and 4 operators licences require yearly medicals. This will be changed so medicals will only be required on initial application for Class 1, 2 and 4 licences and thereafter every 5 years until age 55. Between 55 and 65 it will be required every 2 years and yearly after age 65.

(vi) Licence Classification Changes - the present system of licence classification will be changed. As an example, a class one licence will enable the holder to operate all vehicles except motorcycles. The determining factor for the class of licence will no longer be weight. This will be changed and based on the number of axles involved, as well as other considerations, such as air brakes, fifth wheel, recreation vehicles, etc . This system will soon be adopted by other provinces to provide for uniformity across Canada.

(vii) Personalized Licence Plate (Scheduled to be introduced in 1985)

(viii) Prorate of Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund Fee

The implications of these regulatory changes on the public and special interest groups (e.g., Alberta Trucking Industry) has been and will be dramatic.

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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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Deregulatory Initiatives

1. The services and programs are designed not for the general public or law-abiding citizens of Alberta, but rather for remanded or sentenced persons. Consequently, the opportunities for deregulation are somewhat restricted.

2. Regulation Changes

   There have been few regulation changes since 1977 and changes that did occur were more to expedite the internal management of the correctional system as opposed to eliminating unnecessary obsolete regulations. The system relies heavily on formalized policies and procedures that can be readily adapted to new and changing requirements.

3. Privatization

The Division has concentrated in recent years on the privitization of those services and programs that can be provided more or equally efficiently by the private sector. These include:

a. Community Residential Services to minimum security offenders who have served at least one-third of their sentences. The department has contracts with more than twenty private agencies providing halfway house type beds to offenders. This contractual relationship benefits the private sector, saves the government money, provides offenders an opportunity to become re-integrated into the community, and gives the community a sense of participation in and some responsibility for the criminal justice system.

b. Minimum Security Forestry Camps. Two of the province's ten minimum security forestry camps have been contracted to Native Counselling Services of Alberta. These two camps are dedicated to native offenders and are staffed by native personnel. The main purpose of this program is to provide credible native organizations an opportunity to both participate in government service without becoming an employee of government, while at the same time permitting natives the opportunity to assist native offenders in becoming more productive members of Alberta society.

c. Probation Services. There have been contracts between private sector agencies and the cities of Edmonton and Calgary to provide probation services to offenders. This program applies to both youth and adult offenders.

d. Educational/Vocational Services. All educational/vocational services have been contracted to local school boards, school districts and community-based educational/vocational institutes. Each region of the province has established an educational consortium which determines which educational institute is best suited to deliver a program module at a correctional centre. Most correctional centres have more than one educational establishment involved in educational/vocational program delivery.

e. Medical Services. All medical, dental and related services have been contracted to private physicians and dentists.

f. Pharmaceutical Services. An experiment at the Edmonton Remand Centre to contract for pharmacy services has proved successful and will be extended to all other correctional centres over the next twelve months. The somewhat inefficient prison pharmacies will be eliminated, as will several nursing positions that are presently required to dispense and distribute medication to prisoners.

g. Food Services. Food services at all correctional centres, with the exception of the Peace River Correctional Centre, have been contracted to the private sector. Food costs have been reduced and the level of management of the food services operation has improved considerably over the former system where the Division administered its own food service.

h. Chaplaincy Services. Religious services and pastoral counselling in all the province's correctional centres are under contract to the Salvation Army and the Catholic Diocese.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Young Offenders Act

This is a new program, resulting from the recent proclamation of the federal Young Offenders Act and the Alberta Young Offenders Act. Details of the program are still being worked out.

Effective April 1, 1984, the Division became responsible for young offender programming - a responsibility that previously had been a mandate of Social Services and Community Health.

The transfer of this program to the Solicitor General resulted in the elimination of duplication, overlapping programs, and parallel support systems that previously existed when adult offender and young offender programs were administered by different departments. The immediate impact of this integration and consolidation was a reduction in the costs of operating the young offender system, which was primarily accomplished through the elimination of duplication and a reduction in staffing patterns.

The inter-departmental review process that oversaw the resource transfer from Social Services and Community Health to Solicitor General is one example of how departments can work together to achieve a higher level of efficiency through integration and consolidation of programs with similar objectives but which historically became fragmented between departments.

ALBERTA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD

Deregulatory Initiatives
(Prior Years)

1. **Licensing**

   a. Regulation Changes

   (i) December 31, 1980 the new Liquor Control Act and Regulations amalgamated the substantive provisions of the old Liquor Control Act and Liquor Licensing Act, placing the regulatory/administrative provisions into regulations for ease of amendment as required. New license categories were created to respond to industry needs - sports stadium, racetrack, theatre, nightclub, institutional (both post secondary education and senior citizen) and recreation facilities.

   (ii) Removed restrictions on entertainment.

   (iii) Increased maximum hours of service in beverage rooms and lounges.

   (iv) Authorized lounges to be established in conjunction with dining lounges using a one-to-one seating ratio.

   (v) Eliminated the necessity to obtain Board approval for provision of entertainment and dancing.

   b. Policy Changes

   (i) Expanded "limited menu" authorization in tourist areas.

   (ii) Eliminated requirement for approval of menus.

   (iii) Authorized the use of games in lounges (darts, shuffleboard, pool, etc.).

   (iv) Allowed licensees to have milling and self-service in smaller beverage rooms and lounges.

2. **Permits**

   a. Regulation Changes

   (i) New permit to accommodate home-made wine, cider and beer competitions.

(ii) Expanded hours of sale/service of permit functions to seven hours plus one hour consumption, between 7:30 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. the following morning.

(iii) Introduced annual permits to accommodate well-established clubs that hold regular socials (maximum of one per week) in one location. This permit allows the club to carry liquor over from one function to the next and removes the necessity of obtaining a separate permit for each social; one permit covers the entire year's functions.

b. Policy Changes

(i) Broader definition of "club" to allow un-incorporated bodies to obtain resale permits.

(ii) Authorized an admission charge for family functions such as weddings or anniversaries, thus permitting the applicant to recover total costs of the function.

(iii) Informal educational meetings for the public are conducted where permit requirements are explained.

3. General

a. Regulation Changes

(i) Creation of the Liquor License Review Council to review decisions of the Board affecting licensees and permittees (accommodated in 1980 legislative change).

(ii) Estate sale/gift authorization to allow the sale of a collection of miniatures or a wine cellar.

(iii) Possession in a public place is no longer illegal, only consumption.

(iv) Rules respecting conveyance of liquor were clarified. No longer required to have "sealed" bottles, can be closed or corked as long as kept out of reach of the driver. Also now possible to convey between residences rather than only from liquor store to a residence.

(v) Now lawful to possess and consume liquor in private offices and boats (similar to tent/hotel room provisions).

(vi) Increased penalties for consumption in a vehicle, unlawful conveyance, unlawful sale (bootlegging) and licensee infractions for serving minors and/or permitting minors to be in licensed premises.

b. Policy Changes

(i) Free price system introduced for domestic brewers giving consumer more choice and variety of prices. This introduced competition in the market for the benefit of consumers.

Bills and Regulations
(January 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Licensing

a. Regulation Changes

(i) Removed minimum serve requirements.

(ii) Licensed municipally-owned convention centres.

(iii) Permitted sale of spirits by the bottle via room service.

(iv) Permitted "percentage rent clauses" in commercial leases to include liquor sales.

(v) Hotel lounges authorized for Sunday service in lounge to room guests.

b. Policy Changes

(i) Streamlined the application process.

(ii) Authorized sales of mixed drinks in pitchers and "shooter bars".

(iii) Authorized licensees to offer "Happy Hours".

(iv) Allowed the extension of licenses to include outside patios.

(v) Simplified procedures and qualifications for obtaining licenses.

(vi) Authorized use of combined washroom facilities in small dining lounge and lounge operations.

(vii) Licensee-sponsored public events allowed in hotel banquet rooms.

(viii) Authorized smaller Edmonton and Calgary licensees to purchase and pick-up liquor orders at a liquor store rather than Board warehouses.

(ix) Special concessions provided to Edmonton hotel licensees to accommodate the public during Grey Cup Week in November 1984.

(x) Relaxed advertising requirements for licensee advertising.

(xi) Distributed a booklet to licensees detailing liquor regulations and guidelines which sets out the basics for referral and assistance.

(xii) Agreed not to enforce the prohibition against the supply of tent cards to licensees by manufacturers' representatives.

2. Permits

a. Regulation Changes

(i) Maximum selling price under a Resale Permit was taken out of the Regulations and is now set by the Board according to changes in the costs involved. Prices were increased from $1.00 to $1.25 for liquor and beer.

b. Policy Changes

(i) Removed the requirement to list beverage alcohol on the Permit. This speeds up the issue of a Permit.

(ii) Relaxed food requirements. A variety of sandwiches available throughout the function is now acceptable.

(iii) Sunday closing hours have been changed from service to 11:00 p.m., consumption to 11:30 p.m. to service to 11:30 p.m., consumption to midnight.

(iv) Authorized service of canned beer at special event licensed functions without decanting into paper cups. This means a savings to the operator in both time and money.

3. General

a. Regulation Changes

(i) Revisions to the Alberta Advertising Code.

1. Maximum size for newspaper advertisements increased to 1250 lines to conform with most other Provinces.

2. Outside back cover advertising in magazines authorized.

3. Included "other publications" in list of acceptable print media for liquor advertisements allowing groups and organizations to solicit liquor advertising in programs, yearbooks, brochures, etc.

4. Deleted frequency restrictions for magazine and newspaper advertisements.

5. Deleted size restrictions for magazine advertisements.

6. Authorized greater recognition of manufacturer sponsorship of events by way of corporate name and/or logo on banners, scoreboards and ticketbacks at sponsored events as well as on posters supporting the event.

7. Deleted the restriction to one body label per brand in an advertisement.

(ii) Authorized manufacturers to provide novelty give-away items to the general public.

b. Policy Changes

(i) Land-based duty-free shops accommodated (Coutts store opened December 23, 1983).

(ii) Private warehouses authorized to distribute import beer.

(iii) Brewery and winery retail stores authorized off the premises of the brewery or winery (Rocky Mountain Beer Stores in Edmonton and Calgary, Andrew Wolf Cellars Wine Store in Calgary with another planned for Edmonton).

(iv) Introduction of beer in cans and bottled beer in special mould bottles.

(v) The Board now lists Canadian spirits in the 40 oz. size principally to accommodate licensees using computerized dispensers. Larger bottle is more efficient.

(vi) Authorized use of brand promotion booklets by manufacturers at tradeshows or corporate testings.

(vii) Authorized manufacturers to become involved by way of sponsorship or provision of trophies to student athletic events on the campuses of universities, colleges or technical institutes.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

With respect to the "attitude of Regulatory Officials", we would stress that the Board makes every effort to eradicate any suggestion of "intimidation" by Board personnel. Employees in the past who have indulged in this type of behaviour have been dismissed, as the Board will not tolerate nor condone this type of treatment of the general public. In fact, the Board is generally complimented on the fine job its employees do when dealing with licensees or other members of the general public.

Future Plans

1. Licensing

a. Changes to liquor license regulations and Board policy evolve as required by changing circumstances and the needs of the industry. Liaison is maintained through periodic meetings with the Alberta Hotel Association and the Alberta Restaurant and Foodservices Association as well as meetings with individual operators whenever a licensee wishes to do so.

b. The Board has submitted a recommendation for changes in the License Regulation to authorize off-sales of liquor and wine by the bottle as well as beer via a hotel operator's Beer Vendor's License.

2. Permits

Continue monitoring requirements and policies with changes made as necessary to accommodate changing circumstances based on input received from the public sector via day-to-day contact and public meetings.

3. General

a. Additional changes to the Alberta Advertising Code to authorize liquor advertising in train stations, airports and bus depots.

b. Change some sections of the Liquor Control Act to accommodate the sampling of wine by a manufacturer's representative to licensees to enable the licensee to taste the product.

c. The possibility of expanding event-sponsorship to include brand-sponsorship as well as the present corporate-only sponsorship will be considered within the next year or so.

d. Remove the restriction against personal wear items in the novelty give-away guidelines.

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ALBERTA RACING COMMISSION
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Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Amended rules to permit ownership of horses by syndicates and corporations with multiple owners.

2. Introduced the concept of validation tabs for licenses thus avoiding re-photographing for renewals.

3. Allowed shipped-in horses to compete even though not stabled at the track provided they are there early enough on race day for the veterinary inspection.

4. Allowed horses with different owners but a common trainer to run as separate entities in the same race. Previously we required such horses to be coupled as a single entry for betting purposes.

OTHER REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

3. Driver Control Board

4. Liquor Licensing Review Council

TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS

SMALL BUSINESS DIVISION

The Small Business Division offers a broad range of non-financial programs, including business counselling, management assistance programs, community economic development, community profiles, small business guides, kinds-of-business files, business site locations program and others. All programs are free-of-charge and can be accessed by entrepreneurs or would-be entrepreneurs across the province. Every effort is made to ensure that accessing these programs is simple and straightforward.

For example, entrepreneurs in need of business counselling assistance are required only to telephone the Small Business Division to arrange an appointment. This program alone is used by more than 12,000 Albertans each year and there has been no evidence that the procedures are in any sense a burden to clients.

Deregulatory Initiatives

The Alberta Heritage Fund Small Business and Farm Interest Shielding Program was introduced in 1982 as an amendment to the regulations of the Department of Tourism and Small Business Act. The Interest Shielding Program was part of the province's Economic Resurgence Plan. Through this plan, small business owners and farmers may receive up to 6% interest shielding on eligible loans up to a maximum of $4,500 every six months for the two year duration of the program. The Interest Shielding Program was terminated for subsmission of original applications May 31, 1984. The forms required to participate in the program ask the minimum number of questions possible while maintaining the necessary financial controls. The program has distributed more than $75 million to almost 50,000 businesses.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. The Small Business Equity Corporations Act has only recently been proclaimed (July, 1984). An administrative office and staff are in place and applications to the program are being reviewed. The program offers a 30% incentive to investors to establish Small Business Equity Corporations. The incentive is in the form of a grant for individual investors and a tax credit for corporate

investors. Because of the complexity and financial aspects of the program, participants are required to complete a number of forms. A great deal of time and effort in the planning stages went into developing forms and procedures that are as simple as possible. Should any difficulties arise during the program as far as the complexity of forms, every effort will be made to deal with the problem.

2. Department of Tourism and Small Business Amendment Act

The Department of Tourism and Small Business Act allows the Government to provide loan guarantees. This amendment to the Act allows the Government to guarantee performance obligations, including the indemnification of equipment and facilities leases. This amendment gives the Government greater flexibility in dealing with transactions in the market place relating to small business and tourism. The amendment allows the Government to better serve the small business community.

TOURISM DIVISION (TRAVEL ALBERTA)

Travel Alberta has no mandate to regulate. In both its marketing and development activities, Travel Alberta's role is entirely supportive rather than regulatory.

The one area where the division perhaps begins to approach a regulatory role is in the accommodation inspection program. To be listed in the Alberta Accommodation Guide, a hotel or motel must be inspected by Travel Alberta to ensure the establishment meets minimum standards of cleanliness and service. Participation in this program is entirely voluntary on the part of the operator, as it is with all the Travel Alberta marketing and development programs.

Deregulatory Initiatives

All those situations in which Travel Alberta currently seeks information from tourist operators or from the general public (e.g. surveys) are being reviewed with a view to keeping the paper burden at a minimum.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

Northern Development does not administer regulations which directly affect the private sector. The Northern Alberta Development Council's Act emphasizes the promotional, coordinative, and advisory functions of the Council.

The only regulations that could come into play at all are those pertaining to grants and consultant work. The grant program enables the Branch to assist non-profit, community-based organizations in a gap-filling capacity. In these cases, the usual rationale and documentation, contracts and follow-up financial reporting are required, as are a description of the outcomes of the project when completed. These procedures appear to be working well without undue hardship to the community groups involved.

Deregulatory Initiatives

The Branch has been successful in terms of streamlining done with general services contracts where work is awarded in small amounts with little or no time notification. Letters of agreement have replaced detailed contracts. Supplemented by the Department approval forms signed by the Minister and Deputy Minister, this method protects the province yet allows the industry to respond quickly to urgent requests. The larger contracts are much more cumbersome involving time and paper, in order to meet the need for government accountability.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

ALBERTA OPPORTUNITY COMPANY

The Alberta Opportunity Company is not involved with regulatory statutes or activities of any kind; therefore, the review of requirements in the area of regulation includes only regulations under the Alberta Opportunity Fund Act.

Deregulatory Initiatives

The regulations under the Alberta Opportunity Fund Act have been reviewed at least four times over the past ten years. In 1984, a detailed review was undertaken to determine whether there were any changes that should be considered because existing regulations were hampering the ability of the Company to service the small business community of Alberta. While some minorchanges, mostly of an editorial nature, were recommended and will be going forward to the appropriate authority in due course, the overall finding was that these regulations are basically a general outline of normal parameters of responsible credit granting and do not, therefore, impose arbitrary or unrealistic restrictions which hamper the Company's ability to carry out its mandate.

Future Plans

As indicated above, it is expected that a formal request for a number of minor changes to the regulations under the Alberta Opportunity Fund Act will be going forward in the near future. As in the past, Alberta Opportunity Company will continue to review the regulations under which it operates on a regular basis to ensure that they are not hampering the Company's ability to carry out its mandate.

TRANSPORTATION

The Honourable Marvin Moore, Minister of Transportation has established regulatory reform as a priority area within Alberta Transportation, and in particular within the Motor Transport Board. He has encouraged significant changes within the last year.

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Two years ago truck speed limits were adjusted to more closely match car speeds in an attempt to reduce passing movements. This adjustment met with success and this year the school bus speed limits were adjusted to the posted speed limit or 90 kilometres per hour, whichever is less, for the same safety reasons.

2. In response to a review of the Public Highway Development Act, organizational changes have been made within the Department to streamline the application approval system for developments and private signage adjacent to the primary highway network. The fifteen District offices throughout the Province have been delegated authority to approve applications using basic criteria as guidelines. The responsibility for land-use planning has been shifted back to the local municipalities.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Pacific Western Airlines Act

   The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the sale of the airline.

Inter-agency Co-operation

1. The Highway Traffic Act is being reviewed in conjunction with the Solicitor General's Motor Vehicle Administration Act in an effort to clarify and update these Acts. The Motor Transport Act is also being reviewed to eliminate unnecessary requirements and clarify where appropriate.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

MOTOR TRANSPORT BOARD

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Effective May 1, 1984, the Intra-provincial Charter Bus industry was deregulated on a three year phase-in. The "public need and convenience" test for granting of operating authority certificates will be eliminated; substantial reduction in time and cost of processing applications by the bus industry is anticipated.

2. Effective June 15, 1984, the City of Lloydminster was created as a 'free zone' for Alberta and Saskatchewan truckers. It means that carriers from both provinces are not required to obtain extra-provincial operating authority to cross the Alberta/Saskatchewan boundary to serve the City of Lloydminster.

3. Many changes have been made in the approval process for operating authorities.

   a. Residency requirements for intra-provincial operating authority have been clarified.

   b. Larger loads of loose or baled hay and straw can now be moved up to 50 kilometres from point of origin without the need for an overdimensional permit, subject to certain safety conditions.

   c. Intra-provincial livery operators may now carry small package express as well as passengers.

   d. Permits may be granted to public vehicles that are otherwise prohibited for the purpose of harvesting or marketing field crops, silage or sugar beet pulp during the harvest season or at such other times that emergency conditions may exist.

e. Carriers may now transport their own goods without an operating authority to do so.

f. Fire extinguishers are now only required by regulation in public vehicles that carry passengers, excluding transit buses and taxi cabs.

4. Effective July 15, 1984, the Motor Transport Board has changed the manner in which it issues extra-provincial operating authority certificates. Previously, the Board had named all points of origin/destination on its certificates, but on July 15, 1984 the Board began naming "to the border only". For a carrier wishing to expand his operations across Canada in future, he does not have to come back to the Alberta Board with another application; he need only go to the other jurisdiction's Board.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

1. The Minister has met with the Honourable James Garner, Saskatchewan Minister of Transportation and initiated discussions on creating a new list of commodities by industry sector (i.e. farming and forestry) to be exempt from requirement of extra-provincial operating authority certificates; similarly a list of commodities will be established as ease-of-entry requiring no test of public need and convenience.

2. The Minister has led national discussions with all other Provincial/Territorial and Federal Ministers of Transportation for regulatory reform of the motor carrier industry in Canada - having set terms of reference for provincial officials - to report back to Ministers on major initiatives to further deregulate extra-provincial trucking.

3. The Minister has also initiated discussions with Western Ministers of Transportation for accelerated regulatory reform within Western Canada, and for one-on-one bilateral agreements between Western jurisdictions, to lessen paper work and regulatory requirements for the trucking industry to obtain extra-provincial operating authority.

Future Plans

1. It is generally accepted that Alberta's intra-provincial transportation system is viewed as one of the least regulated systems in Canada. Significant efforts will continue to reduce the burden of paperwork to the extent possible. It is very difficult to provide reform in the area of extra-provincial transportation without

co-operation from other jurisdictions, but the establishment of at least the regional concept will show significant improvements for the transportation industry.

TREASURY

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. The Canadian Feed Association's concerns, from a Treasury view, revolved around record-keeping with respect to truckers. In a reply to the Association and in a subsequent meeting, Treasury officials indicated that they have taken the initiative in proposing a universal form for use by all provinces and territories with respect to three areas. Proposed standardized forms for the reporting of fuel oil, sales tax and motor vehicle licensing fees were prepared and submitted for review to all jurisdictions. The adoption of standardized forms would be of great benefit to interprovincial motor transport firms operating in Canada. A management consulting firm is presently reviewing the forms and will report to the Canadian Motor Transport Association. A copy of the proposal was supplied to the Canadian Feed Association for their comments.

2. Ways are continually sought to reduce the compliance costs on Alberta corporate taxpayers. Techniques which contribute to this end are introduced as quickly as feasible. For instance, a practice of accepting a notification of non-operating status in lieu of insisting upon a return from such corporations has been adopted.

Bills and Regulations

(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. In June, 1983 the Tobacco Tax Act and Regulations were rewritten to remove the requirement for retailers of tobacco to have a permit issued by the department. This reduced an administrative burden from approximately 15,000 small businesses in Alberta.

   The department also introduced proposed standardized forms of the reporting of tobacco tax to all jurisdictions. As many collectors operate in three or four jurisdictions, this was considered a positive step because of the simplification in the reporting process.

2. More recently, the Fuel Oil Administration Act and its associated

regulations were reviewed to remove any unnecessary or burdensome regulations or requirements such as the requirement for bulk agents to carry bills of lading and a reduction in the number of situations where special permits are required. The old Fuel Oil Tax Act thus became obsolete, and was repealed at the Fall Sitting, 1984.

3. Additional actions, although not all legislative in nature, have also been taken in the department, particularly within Corporate Tax Administration.

   a. Regulations under the Alberta Corporate Income Tax Act have been kept to the minimal level consistent with effective administration and maintaining compatibility with the related Income Tax Act (Canada). The Alberta Corporate Income Tax Regulation, however, was recently simplified, so that it now contains only one section prescribing a single rate of interest which applied for all purposes under the Act. While not regulatory in nature, Corporate Tax Administration has continued its efforts to reduce the "paper burden" and compliance costs on corporate taxpayers.

   b. Several actions have been taken in this regard; the amounts which Corporate Tax Administration is now prepared to write off, for instance, have been increased from $1.00 to $5.00. As well, statement of account forms are no longer automatically sent in respect of trivial amounts.

   c. The mailing of forms and schedules have been simplified in order that only essential components are mailed to all taxpayers. The minority who require the more specialized schedules now obtain these upon request.

4. Municipal Land Loans Repeal Act

   This obsolete Act was repealed.

5. Amendments and Acts, without regulatory or deregulatory implications, in the view of the department:

   a. Government Land Purchases Amendment Act, 1981

   b. Treasury Branches Amendment Act, 1983

   c. Pension Statutes Amendment Act, 1984

   d. Financial Administration Amendment Act, 1984

   e. Appropriation Act, 1984

   f. Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 1984

   g. Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Act, 1984-85

h. Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Act, 1984-85 (No. 2)

i. Alberta Income Tax Amendment Act, 1983 (No. 2)

j. Alberta Income Tax Amendment Act, 1984

k. Alberta Corporate Income Tax Amendment Act, 1983 (No. 2)

l. Alberta Corporate Income Tax Amendment Act, 1984

m. Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Amendment Act, 1984

n. Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Special Appropriation Act, 1984-85

o. Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation Amendment Act, 1983

6. The Retirement Annuities Act and its regulation were obsolete and were repealed (Fall Sitting, 1984).

Inter-Agency Co-operation

1. As Corporate Tax Administration is our largest area of public interaction, great emphasis has been placed on communication. All correspondence with the taxpayer contains the name and telephone number of an individual to contact for further information or clarification. An advisory committee has been established between officials in the Administration and representatives of the tax-accounting community. The "Tax Notes" news bulletin has been used extensively to communicate legislative changes and administrative procedures to the community.

2. As the audit of a company's records may be required by several Alberta government departments and by other levels of government, communication has been attempted with many of these areas and with the taxpayer in order to reduce the duplication of an audit wherever possible.

UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Alberta Municipal Water Supply and Sewage Treatment Grant Program

The following actions have been taken to lessen regulatory requirements with respect to the grant program:

a. The standard agreements with the municipalities for the provision of financial assistance have been modified to allow for flexibility in grant payments. Previously, the agreements called for set payments at certain progress completion levels. This created a situation at fiscal year end when a project was between fixed percentage payment levels, but there was a need for the delivery of additional funds to the municipality. As a result, an amending agreement had to be entered into with the municipality to provide for an additional payment level. The addition of the flexibility clause in the payment schedule has eliminated the need to amend agreements so as to allow for payments at fiscal year end, or at other times of the year if so required.

b. The department has recently decided to use declarations for the payments of small grants to municipalities rather than use formal agreements. The formal agreement required the municipality to pass a bylaw with three readings to enter into an agreement with the minister. The municipality then had to sign the agreement and return it to the department for processing. Now, for small projects, all that is required is for the municipality, usually the secretary treasurer, to sign an application form and submit it to the department. The minister then issues a declaration for the grant payment which provides a much simpler means of delivery of funds for the given project.

c. In the past, all projects were required to be audited by an independent audit firm hired by the municipality. This posed some problems in small centres, and particularly for small projects, in that the municipality experienced difficulties in getting an auditor out to the municipality within a reasonable time frame after the project was completed. Also, there were additional costs incurred for the audit. Now, for small projects an audit will not be required and the municipality can simply submit copies of their paid invoices along with a letter stating that all costs have been paid. This will be reviewed by departmental staff and final grant payment will occur shortly thereafter. This change in approach for small projects should result both in a cost and a time saving for the municipalities.

d. The terms of the grant program were altered in July 1983 to introduce first dollar cost-sharing and to eliminate the previous qualifying contribution. The new formula is easier to understand in that just straight percentages are required to be calculated. This has been well accepted by the municipalities.

e. The Minister has attempted to streamline procedures in order to obtain funding approval for projects earlier in the year. As an example, in 1983 the first full list of projects for funding was issued at the end of August whereas in 1984 it was issued during early July. An earlier announcement of approved projects allows more construction to be undertaken during the summer and fall construction season when conditions are more favourable and as a result, work can usually be done at a lesser cost with a better product being obtained. Further efforts will take place in future years to obtain funding approvals at an even earlier date.

2. Natural Gas Utilities and Rural Gas Programs

a. During 1982 both the Rural Gas Regulation and the Department of Utilities and Telephones Grant Regulations, Schedule 3, were revised to eliminate obsolete requirements, simplify understanding of the requirements, and to consolidate.

b. Rural Gas Program grant application and construction application procedures have been simplified and certain requirements eliminated. Also, grant eligibility and payment procedures have been mechanized. The result is reduced paperwork for our clients and quicker processing time.

c. Implementation of automated drafting program for as-built drawings of rural gas utility plant. This will result in faster drawing production, standardization of drawings and considerable reduction in drafting staff.

d. Gas Alberta provides an optional billing service to rural gas co-operatives. Special billing arrangements were introduced featuring greater involvement of co-ops in the billing process. Results are improved cash flows, reduced paperwork and quicker billing turn-around time for the co-ops.

3. Natural Gas Price Protection Plan

Under this scheme, payments are made directly to the utility companies. This results in a direct rebate being paid to the customer in the form of a deduction on his utility bill.

4. Senior Citizens Home Heating Program

The department has developed its own list of people who are eligible for the program rather than requiring the individuals to initiate the application. The program is also available to widows under the Widows Protection Act.

Bills and Regulations
(July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984)

1. Rural Electrification Statutes Amendment Act, 1984

   Not deregulatory in nature.

2. Co-operative Marketing Associations and Rural Utilities Guarantee Amendment Act, 1984

   Not deregulatory in nature.

3. The Pipeline Amendment Act, 1984, is a good example of a "deregulation" bill.

Inter-agency Co-operation

1. Natural Gas Utilities and Rural Gas Program

   a. Inspection of pipeline construction for low-pressure gas pipelines is now wholly a departmental responsibility. Formerly both the department and the ERCB were involved in this function. Therefore, duplication has been eliminated, overall manpower requirements have been reduced, and inspection responsibilities have been partially transferred to the private sector.

   b. Significant reduction in pipeline permitting procedures and elimination of regulatory duplication with major staff/cost savings to ERCB, and no increase in departmental staff or costs.

Attitude of Regulatory Officials

1. Alberta Municipal Water Supply and Sewage Treatment Grant Program

   a. Efforts have been made to have staff project an attitude of assisting municipalities rather than regulating them. The department encourages as much decision making at the local level as possible and has offered an approach to the municipalities of trying to help them through the various procedures that are required in undertaking a water or sewer project. As an example, departmental staff have assisted several municipalities in preparing terms of reference for the municipalities to use in evaluating and hiring engineering consultants.

Increased Regulatory Activity

1. **Rural Gas Program**

   a. Rural Gas Program - materials quality assurance program. This was introduced four or five years ago to ensure that quality materials are used in rural gas utility construction.

   b. Increased involvement over the past two or three years in operations and maintenance practices of rural gas distributors. This activity is deemed necessary to assist distributors to keep their plants in good condition and to achieve efficient systems operation.

REPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Alberta Government Telephones

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Deregulated provisioning of terminal equipment in 1981 has resulted in a reduction in the number of tariffed items within AGT's general tariff.

2. Alberta Electric Energy Marketing Agency

WORKERS' HEALTH, SAFETY AND COMPENSATION

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY DIVISION

The regulatory improvement program of the Occupational Health and Safety Division can be said to have had its genesis during the mid 1970's. At that time, in response to the recommendations of the Gale Commission (1975), there was established a single government body responsible for occupational health and safety within the province. The Occupational Health and Safety Division at that time operated under the Department of Labour. Under the direction of the senior officials of the division and The Hon. Neil Crawford, the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1976 was created. This statute, and the regulations that were soon proclaimed under it, collected together most of the legislative provisions within Alberta law dealing with industrial injury and disease problems.

Shortly after the Occupational Health and Safety Act came into effect the numerous safety regulations, which were administered by the Workers' Compensation Board, were transferred to the Act. During the late 1970's, the division initiated a process of consolidation and re-evaluation of the regulations it had inherited from the Board. In particular, a consolidated safety regulation, based upon the 1976 regulations, was prepared and the following deregulatory initiatives resulted.

Deregulatory Initiatives

1. Clarification and appropriate assignment of responsibilities:

   In contrast to many of the older regulations, the new safety and health regulations have clearly placed responsibilities upon the appropriate parties. For the most part, these have been assigned to the employer as they have the ultimate responsibility for health and safety at a work site. However, where it is appropriate to assign responsibility to the worker, this assignment has been made.

2. Expanded use of professional engineers:

   A new direction taken within the recently approved regulations parallels the clarification of responsibilities. By creating a requirement for employers to ensure that certain critical pieces of equipment are certified as safe by competent professional engineers, a means has been established whereby the mechanical and structural safety of such equipment can be maintained without the need for direct government intervention.

3. Focus on the hazards, rather than on the industries:

As an integral component of the consolidation process, the vast majority of the new provisions focus on the hazards that occur in Alberta workplaces. There are some specific exceptions to the use of these generic (i.e. not specific to any one industry) health and safety provisions, but for the most part the new regulations concern themselves with the hazards of the workplace. Alberta's new health and safety regulations will not create a series of parallel or duplicate legal requirements directed to a number of specific industries. As an example, the provisions of the new General Safety Regulation will apply to all industries in Alberta, including the mining and quarrying industries. (Mining and quarrying may, for the time being, remain as the only industries with a single and identifiable regulation containing a limited number of additional provisions that specifically address hazards unique to these industries.)

4. Use of "performance regulations":

There has been a substantial expansion in the use of performance standards in all health and safety regulations. Performance standards, in contrast to prescriptive regulations, describe in general terms what the safety objective is, but do not necessarily dictate how the objective should be achieved. On the one hand, the use of performance regulations allows for creative alternatives to achieving legislated health and safety objectives. On the other hand, this type of standard is conceptually much broader in its application than the prescriptive regulations and, therefore, encompasses a wider range of possibilities in the workplace. Although certain of the old prescriptive regulations from older Occupational Health & Safety regulations have been retained in the new regulations, for the most part the old provisions have been replaced with the stronger and more appropriate performance standards.

The performance-oriented regulations can be read as clear objectives or responsibilities. Their meaning and intent are clearly stated without the necessity of sifting through hundreds of specific and detailed regulatory provisions. These new types of provisions address the broad subject of a particular hazard, without relying upon stating an obvious or specific solution, or without focusing on a series of detailed examples of the general subject. When regulations prescribe a particular method of doing something, this reflects the degree to which industry has abdicated its responsibility to government regulators, allowing the government to become, in effect, the directing minds of their organizations. Drafting generic performance regulations should encourage industry to innovate and share solutions. It may even create a secondary market for the prevention of the identified, general Occupational Health & Safety problems.

It is reasonable to assume that generic, performance-oriented regulations, because they will be widely read and applied in the workplace, will serve an additional function of informing or educating workers and employers alike of the fundamental principles of occupational health and safety.

5. Further use of non-government standards:

There has been a considerable increase in the reference to non-government standards within the new health and safety regulations, in particular the codes of the Canadian Standards Association. The use of these standards, which have been prepared as a result of consensus within industry, provides a basis for achieving an acceptable, minimum level of safety in Alberta workplaces. As was the case for changing the focus of the regulations, reference to these standards has also contributed towards reducing the total size of legislation.

6. Use of "Codes of Practice" and "Guidelines":

During the review process, it became increasingly apparent that many of the old provisions were informational in nature and were not suited as legal requirements. Where it is appropriate, there has been a requirement placed upon industry to develop work site specific Codes of Practice instead of placing the informational provisions into the regulations. There is a requirement in the new regulations for the workers, who will be affected by the subject matter of the codes, to be made aware of both the contents and the intention of these codes.

Codes of practice will not be directly enforceable under the Occupational Health & Safety Act, as they are non-legal alternatives to regulations. The development of codes will reduce the need for volumes of detailed regulatory provisions for particular industries, most notably the construction and the mining industries. The use of codes, however, will not reduce industry's obligation to adhere to the standards prescribed in the Act and the new regulations. Codes may be admissible as evidence in a court and may form the basis for an opinion of an officer in exercising authority under the Act.

Guidelines, like codes, are informational documents, but they are prepared by the division for the purpose of informing industry what should constitute acceptable health and safety practice. A guideline has no regulatory status and is meant to assist industry in reducing the level of occupational hazards that occur in Alberta workplaces by providing relevant and topical information and suggestions.

7. Alternatives to Regulations

Initiation and preparation of regulations by the division is not undertaken in isolation from the development and implementation of various alternatives to drafting legal obligations. These alternatives can be summarized as:

(a) Educational and training programs (e.g. the Accident Control Course for Supervisors);

(b) Information and research services (examples are the development of Codes of Practice, Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines, and Explanatory Pamphlets, and the preparation of Inter-industry Injury Rate Comparison Charts);

(c) Consultations and advisory functions (the major example would be the daily interaction between the Officers, employers and workers, when a wide variety of health and safety problems are resolved through mutual co-operation and understanding); and

(d) Economic incentives (an example would be the Occupational Health & Safety Heritage Grant Program which provides financial support for a variety of health and safety research and education projects).

When developing new regulations, division staff compare the intention of the particular legal provision with the non-legal alternatives to determine if one or more of the alternatives should be employed. The major alternatives have been applied as replacements or as complements to the new regulations.

Bills and Regulations

(May 1, 1983 - September 1, 1984)

1. Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, 1983

In order for legislation to continue to be meaningful, it must be under constant scrutiny and review. It must continue to be relevant today. As part of the division's on-going program of improving and consolidating Alberta's OHS legislation, amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act were introduced on May 3rd, 1983 by The Hon. Mr. Bill W. Diachuk, Minister Responsible for Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation.

The changes that were made to the Act were primarily directed towards ensuring that the provisions of the Coal Mine Safety Act and the Quarries Regulations Act will become new regulations under the Act. However, there were a number of other amendments made which will clarify the intent of the original statute, and continue to promote and protect workers' health and safety.

a. Amendments to the Act (which received Royal Assent on June 6th, 1983) allowed employers to propose acceptable alternatives to specific requirements of the regulations. This provided a basis for flexibility in compliance, and complemented the use of the generic, performance-oriented regulations.

b. Other amendments will see designated employers or principal contractors prepare and inform their workers of the occupational health and safety policies that will apply at the work site. Changes to the reporting requirements for serious injuries and accidents were also made, in particular the elimination of the need to submit a written report to a Director within 48 hours whenever a serious injury or accident occurred. Emphasizing the self-regulation concept, employers are now required to conduct their own investigation, prepare an internal report and retain a copy at their work site.

c. The expansion of the requirements for codes of practice will reduce considerably the need for volumes of detailed, specific information to be contained in the regulations. This change underlies the division's belief that regulations should state the objective to be achieved, and codes of practice, informational guidelines and pamphlets should contain the details regarding how the objective will be achieved.

d. Changes were also made which will strengthen and clarify the workers' right to refuse work which may constitute imminent danger to either himself or to fellow workers. The protective provisions for workers who are unfairly disciplined (for complying with the Act or regulations) were also improved, thus strengthening the workers' obligations with respect to occupational health and safety and also encouraging workers to self-regulate.

e. Other amendments to the Act clarified such issues as: (i) confidentiality of medical records; (ii) early notification of new industrial projects; and (iii) worker awareness of duties and responsibilities.

2. General Safety Regulation, AR 448/83

The new General Safety Regulation came into effect on September 1st, 1984.

a. This excellent example of the division's regulatory improvement program repealed the following regulations:

   (i) General Accident Prevention Regulations (AR 267/76);
   (ii) Safety Regulations Governing Grain Elevators, Grain Annexes, Flour Mills, Feed Mills and Seed Cleaning Plants (AR 268/76);
   (iii) Lumbering Safety Regulations (AR 269/76);
   (iv) Petroleum and Natural Gas Safety Regulations (AR 270/76); and
   (v) Construction Safety Regulations (AR 271/76).

The five 1976 safety regulations, containing over 1600 sections, have become a single consolidated regulation with less than 240 sections. This represents a reduction of 40% in the total volume of the safety regulations. However, more than just a simple elimination of duplication or conflicts between regulations has been accomplished. Because numerous health and safety hazards are not unique to one particular industry, many of the new provisions have become generic regulations (they have application to all industries). By drafting these trans-industry regulations, considerable reduction in the volume of the new regulation (compared to the size of the five older regulations) was achieved.

b. In addition, a number of provisions from the 1976 regulations have been simply eliminated. Too numerous to list here, they were either unnecessary, unenforceable or simply inappropriate legal provisions, and have thus been removed from Alberta law.

c. A further change has been the substantial reduction of those provisions that are only informational or merely provide guidelines to industry. Considerable reference is also made to the independently developed consensus standards, particularly those of the Canadian Standards Association. The use of these standards, prepared by qualified technical committees, provides another means of achieving an acceptable level of safety in Alberta workplaces without having to spell-out all the details in the law. Reference to these standards has also contributed towards reducing the size of the proposed regulation.

d. A number of initiatives have addressed the need to decrease (and eliminate, in many areas) various forms of direct government interventions

(i) By creating a requirement for professional engineers to certify the safety of equipment and work practices, the new regulations have also established a means to ensure the mechanical, structural and operational safety of major industrial equipment without the need for direct government certification.

(ii) The division has eliminated the need for industry to seek approvals from the Directors of Inspection for a variety of items where approval was required in the old regulations. For the most part, the elimination of the requirement for approvals has been replaced with reference to the industrial safety standards or to certification by a Professional Engineer.

(iii) Arising from the recent addition of Section 26.1 to the Act, a new provision allows for the granting of an acceptance to employers who can demonstrate that they have an alternative solution to a designated requirement which provides for equal or greater protection for workers. This flexibility should provide an incentive to industry to develop viable alternatives to designated sections of the new regulation.

e. The new regulation should not constitute an undue burden for Alberta employers or workers. One of the outcomes of the two major public reviews was the identification of any major financial and operational problems arising from the proposed changes. In most cases, these concerns led to further revisions of the regulation. By stating the legal requirements in performance terms, and not specifying the method by which the goals have to be attained, the parties responsible will be free to apply the most cost-effective means at their disposal, providing the goal is achieved. Further, by far the vast majority of the revised provisions are based upon the existing regulations. These old regulations have been applied by Alberta industry for many years and have not constituted undue economic hardship.

f. There are short-term cost implications to the affected parties which are inevitably associated with the implementation of changes in legislation. However, in the longer run, substantial economic and social gains are recognized. The more obvious economic benefits include: potential reductions in workers' compensation costs, as well as reduction in lost production time and other savings associated with not having to replace or repair equipment or structures damaged by an accident. In addition, there are gains which, although not expressed on the financial balance sheet, are important for the socially responsible employer to recognize. In summary, the short-term additional costs are far exceeded by the economic and social benefits which arise from the improved preventive programs resulting from revised regulations. The time saved by working more effectively and having clearer regulations to work with will more than compensate for the time and effort required for the change-over.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

1. Many 1976 injury-specific regulations had accumulated in the Alberta law books without a comprehensive evaluation of the regulation-making process itself. During the development of the General Safety Regulation, an attempt was made to look beyond the obvious manifestations of any one particular serious injury or accident, and address the underlying and less obvious deficiencies which lead to the accident in the first place. In this way, the new regulations were not developed reflexively, but have evolved through a long process of study, evaluation and consultation with industry and labour.

2. The division subscribes to the philosophy that the ultimate and direct responsibility for occupational health and safety belongs to employers and workers, co-operating together to achieve

self-regulation. The government's role can be described as an indirect or consequential responsibility; a monitor of health and safety at the workplace; encouraging industry and labour to self-regulate; and providing support functions and enforcement activities when necessary.

Increased Regulatory Activity

Aside from the substantial consolidation and elimination of the 1976 provisions, there have been a few new provisions introduced into the General Safety Regulation. The major new provisions are as follows:

(i) Sanitary facilities (S. 27 to 33)
(ii) Climbing on communications and power transmission towers (S.93)
(iii) Selection, maintenance and use of respiratory protective equipment (Ss. 94 to 99)
(iv) Roll Over Protective Structures extended to rollers and compactors (S. 105)

Future Plans

1. Radiation Protection Act, 1985

The division circulated in the summer of 1984 for public comment a 'white paper', containing descriptive information concerning a proposed new, consolidated "Radiation Protection Act". The current Radiation Protection Act and the Radiological Technicians Act have been in place for over twelve years. The former statute was originally written to ensure that medical and dental x-ray equipment was installed properly and used safely. The latter statute was promulgated to address the need to regulate the conduct of radiographers.

There is a need to rewrite and consolidate the two Acts. This is particularly necessary in light of the repeal of certain provisions of the Radiological Technicians Act arising from the recent amendments to the Health Occupations Act. There is also the need to update the statutory authorities provided under the original statutes, in particular to clarify the administrative, consultative and enforcement role of the government. The role of the federal and the Alberta governments in protecting worker and public health from radiation will also be clarified.

A number of radiation sources, not addressed in the current legislation, will be addressed within the proposed new statute. Unnecessary or inappropriate government control of certain radiation sources will be removed and various alternatives to drafting legal obligations will be applied in conjunction with the new statute.

The fundamental purpose of the new consolidated statute will be to continue to facilitate the protection of worker's health from radiation exposure, as well as the public's health.

a. A proposed new provision would require an owner or operator of a radiation facility to establish and implement a "quality assurance program". Such programs would ensure preventive maintenance programs are undertaken regularly on x-ray equipment and that the radiation facility meets legislated standards.

   Specific prohibitions will be placed on designated types of radiation equipment, some of which are addressed within current legislation. Dangerous types of equipment will be identified and their use restricted or prohibited.

   The current provisions addressing non-compliance will be updated and new levels of sanctions are proposed.

b. The impact on industry and other users of radiation will be that, in some cases, there will be an elimination or a reduction of control. In other cases there will be a requirement to control hazards associated with certain equipment where controls did not exist before. However, formalization of control in these areas is not seen as a major impact. For the most part, the proposed new statute can be seen as "intervention by invitation", because industry has and will continue to depend on government for direction and expertise in this important area. Because of the relative scarcity of technical expertise, government expertise in this field is widely recognized and employed.

2. It is anticipated that there will be some further minor amendments made to the current version of the General Safety Regulation. For the most part, these amendments will have arisen as a result of industry and labour review of the new regulation. Public notices will be distributed when the amendment regulation is promulgated.

3. Further improvements in Occupational Health & Safety regulations will continue in the future. To keep industry, labour and other government departments and agencies informed of proposed changes to the legislation, the division produces an "Occupational Health & Safety Regulations Timetable". This timetable is updated and distributed on a regular basis to the various industry and labour health and safety associations, as well as other interested organizations and government departments. Special legislation information bulletins are also produced and sent out to identified key associations and interest groups, as well as other governments and departments. Both of these supplement the detailed information provided in regular articles published in the "OHS Magazine", which has a circulation of 65,000 throughout Alberta industry. In this way, the division is attempting to ensure that industry, labour and the general public are informed and involved in the production of all new health and safety regulations.

REPORTING ORGANIZATION

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Deregulatory Initiatives

No problem areas as such are seen as requiring attention on the part of the Board.

The Board has only a minimum number of regulations, twenty-four, the majority of which have a specific purpose aimed at reducing the requirement for Act changes.

For example:

(i) Payments to claimants and dependants for such items as travel and subsistence; funeral expenses and clothing expenses.

(ii) Regulations directly affecting employers are only four in number and have not, to date, created problems for either the Board, or employers.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

The Board will continue to expand its program of consultation with employers' groups, and individuals, on such matters as finances, and the methods of funding its operations.

Future Plans

As a result of the work recently completed by a Select Committee of the Legislature, under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Bill Diachuk, it is expected that changes to both the Workers' Compensation Act and the Regulations will be announced shortly.

Some of the anticipated changes will be aimed at clarification and interpretation of existing legislation which should result in fewer misunderstandings between the Board and its clients.

As far as policies and procedures for the administration of the Act are concerned, efforts are being made to disseminate information to provide for better understanding and improved working relationships, particularly with industry and business.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS
RECEIVED FROM ASSOCIATIONS

The Economic Affairs Committee of Caucus invited business associations throughout Alberta to identify regulatory problems. Following is a summary of the concerns expressed by those associations who replied, and a summary of the comments made by relevant Government Departments.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
BUSINESS ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS		
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	General Issues	
Referred To: Energy & Natural Resources E.R.C.B. Environment Economic Development Treasury Labour Occupational Health & Safety Division (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation) Workers' Compensation Board Social Services & Community Health Manpower Attorney General A.L.C.B. Legislative Counsel F.I.G.A. Municipal Affairs	1. Regulatory reform to be given high priority; to be the responsibility of a senior minister; progress reports be "required". (No suggestion as to whom reports are to be made.)	1. The Government has given priority to the need to actively work to reduce the burden of regulatory requirements and procedures that affect both businesses and individuals in Alberta. The Premier and all Ministers have asked their department officials to be aware of the need to simplify and reduce regulatory procedures in all areas of Government activity.
	2. Private sector to assist in "advocacy and implementation" of regulatory reform and identify regulations that cause unnecessary delays and outlays.	2. The Economic Affairs Committee of the Government Caucus has established a forum to hear views on the regulatory activities of the Government and the impact of these activities upon the private sector. This Committee has emphasized that, if regulatory problems are to be addressed, it

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (cont'd)		is most important that members of the business community and individual citizens make the Government aware of specific problems.
	3. All regulations to expire after 2 to 5 years "unless justified by an independent body". (The body is not identified.)	3. Graham L. Harle, in a May 1, 1978 Ministerial Statement explained that "the Government believes that greater harm could be done and more uncertainty created by providing for lapsing of regulations in the manner proposed" (within a specified period of time). Numerous departments, likewise, feel that sunset legislation is inappropriate for all regulations.
	4.1 The need for new regulations must be demonstrated.	4.1 4.2 4.3 These three recommendations, when at all possible, form the basis for guidelines directing changes to legislation or regulations. Much of the discussion which occurs, when Ministers defend proposals for changes at meetings of the Cabinet and Government Caucus, revolves around the benefit and need of a regulation.
	4.2 New regulations must employ the least burdensome alternative.	
	4.3 Social and economic benefits of new regulations must outweigh costs.	
	4.4 Interested parties should be consulted when regulations are prepared and have the opportunity to participate in the development of new regulations.	4.4 It is the policy of the Government of Alberta that a Minister intending to advance a proposal for a change in legislation or regulation should first engage in consultation, to the fullest extent practical, with interested groups in the private sector, and with other governmental agencies.
	4.5 Statutes, regulations, and policy directives should be written clearly. Mandate of regulatory bodies should be strictly defined. Regulations should be submitted to the Legislature when the governing bill is submitted.	4.5 The current edition (April 1, 1981) of the Drafting Style Manual provides guidelines for precision, simplicity, and clarity, in the preparation of all legislation, regulations, and orders-in-council. The Zander Committee also made

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (cont'd)		this recommendation - proposed regulations should accompany the enabling Bill in the Legislative Assembly. However, it was rejected by the 1978 Government response to the committee's recommendations. The government felt that "regulations, because they are intended to deal only with matters of detail, and by their nature are to be subjected to expeditious change if circumstances require", must remain flexible. Flexibility is lost if all proposed regulations must be submitted to the Assembly, and become subject to its Calendar.
	5. Commission should be established to review and recommend on regulations and procedures. The commission should: - not include any public servants; - exist only for 3 to 5 years and continue only if successful; and - be directed by senior executives from private sector.	5. This task has been assigned to the Economic Affairs committee of the Government Caucus. However, elected persons, "because elected Government must ultimately take responsibility for all regulatory provisions, and ensure that they reasonably satisfy the competing interests of all who may be affected", have been given this responsibility.
	Energy-related issues	
	1.1 Procedures for approval of new facilities for electrical utilities and integrated petroleum companies are cumbersome, and make unnecessary requests: (i) inefficient hearings a. unnecessary contingency preparation; b. personnel displacement (ii) data burden (iii) announcement delays (iv) government departmental decision-making jurisdictions	1.1 (ERCB, Environment) These departments are working on proposed changes to the approval process. The ERCB is "making an effort to ensure that its processes are as efficient as possible, given its legal responsibilities". The ERCB is having on-going discussions with government departments to "see if the one-window process can be improved and to ensure that inefficiencies imposed on the industry are kept to a minimum".

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (cont'd)	inconsistent (v) government processing procedures lead to disruptive delays.	
	1.2.a Quantity of regulations and frequency of changes in energy-related areas means company administration must be administration must be geared to providing government information i.e. "Electrical Utility Safety Regulations". This runs counter to high productivity.	1.2.a (Labour) Such regulations were prepared in consultation with the industry. "Any and all amendments must be approved by the Electrical Utility Regulations Committee." A technical sub-committee is presently working on Safety Rules to reorganize the content, delete sections that are obsolete, duplicated, or covered by Regulations of the O.H.&S. Division.
	1.2.b Pollution monitoring procedures are cumbersome and unreliable.	1.2.b (Environment) Pollution levels monitored by the department have used, wherever possible, the most currently available analytical techniques. This analysis is used for spot comparison with industry results.
	1.2.c Monitoring for "buy Alberta-made and Canadian-made" articles causes expense and is "unnecessarily bureaucratic."	1.2.c Content reporting helps government to identify opportunities for Alberta industrial development and expansion. Without this reporting it is difficult to ascertain how beneficial projects are to the engineering, manufacturing and construction industries in Alberta. Economic Development acknowledges that there is effort involved by industry to generate content reports. Thus, the department is willing to review the "detail requirements and threshold level for reporting content". It has already reduced reporting requirements over the past 2 years on Alberta industrial projects in response to requests from industry.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (cont'd)	1.3.a "Make-shift and complex variations" in petroleum royalty and fiscal policies unnecessarily complicate investment decisions.	1.3.a (ENR) The department agrees that petroleum royalties with the variety of pricing mechanisms, have become more makeshift and complex, leading to unforeseen costs and aggravations. Work to develop a new system of reporting and controlling gas royalty has been ongoing on a joint task force basis with the Industry Associations. The results of this joint effort are near completion and are outstanding in relation to better utilization of available data and paperburden reductions.
	1.3.b Incentive programs (APIPS, DOIS, WISP, DIC, etc.) require costly accounting for both industry and government.	1.3.b The recent amendments to the Geophysical Incentive System and the Exploratory Drilling Incentive System, as well as the new Oil Royalty Exemption System, have taken into consideration numerous submissions by industry.
	Labour-related Issues	
	2.1 Regulations and associated costs are increasing for programs of workers' compensation and occupational health and safety.	2.1 (Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation) The division has long recognized the need to improve and consolidate Alberta's OHS regulations. On September 1st, a new "General Safety Regulation" will repeal five OHS regulations, reducing the volume of safety regulations by at least 40 percent. Further consolidation and improvements are expected. By the end of 1985 the net reduction in the volume of all legislation administered by the division will be approximately 35 percent. The division's commitment to the principles of regulatory reform is reflected in improving OHS regulations.
	2.2 Inspectors make arbitrary decisions, for example, respecting ventilation and sanitation.	2.2 (Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation) The division's approach to adopting perfor-

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (cont'd)		mance-oriented regulations (ventilation and sanitation) has addressed the major element of this concern.
	2.3 Mine regulations are too strictly applied to open-pit operations, for example, respecting methane detectors and explosion-proof electrical pumping equipment.	2.3 (Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation) The development of the new "Mine Safety Regulation", which will replace the Coal Mine Safety Act, the Quarries Regulations Act, and their respective regulations should reduce the volume of Alberta's mine safety legislation by at least 50 percent. The flexibility the division hopes to achieve in the new regulations will promote the use of other types of engineering controls while ensuring the health and safety of workers in Alberta mines.
	2.4 Workers' Compensation inspectors have developed a multitude of "interpretations" that have become "guidelines" for the Board. These have not been made public and thus create problems for employers.	2.4 The staff of the W.C.B. have not developed a multitude of "interpretations", rather the Board has approved policy statements and practices for the application of the legislation and these are fully explained to worker and employer alike on request. Significant policy changes are also dealt with in the quarterly issue of "INFO".
	2.5 Workers' Compensation rates are too high and awards are made too easily. (Employees have been compensated after being injured, while committing criminal acts, although apparent injury has not hindered employability.)	2.5 (Workers' Compensation Board) Since no figures are quoted, it is difficult to determine the basis for the Chamber's assertion that WCB rates are high. According to the Board's information, the Alberta net assessment rates are highly competitive. Also, the two examples given, apparently exemplifying "awards being made too easily", are distorted.
	2.6 The Manpower Development Act prohibits "cross-crafting" of trades. This inhibits training of multi-skilled tradesmen and expands	2.6 (Manpower) The Manpower Development Act functions primarily as training and certification legislation, not as trade jurisdiction

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (cont'd)	existing jurisdictional disputes from the construction industry into building maintenance.	legislation. This Act and its regulations "do not prohibit a person from obtaining training and certification in a number of trades".
	Liquor Regulations	
	3. "Easier and more cordial access" to the ALCB and the Attorney General's department.	3. (Solicitor General) In recent years, the Solicitor General and the A.L.C.B. have placed specific emphasis on the need for good two-way communication with the business community, at all levels of administration of the Liquor Control Act. The Solicitor General, the Honourable Ian C. Reid, has recently asked for responses from trade organizations regarding current regulations. The department will be reviewing the responses and addressing any concerns regarding the unnecessary impact of regulations on day-to-day operations.
	3.1.a Beverage advertising rules are complicated. There are some duplications between A.L.C.B. and Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) rules.	3.1.a ALCB rules have recently been simplified to provide greater consistency with those in other provinces, and thus simplify the manufacturers problems in producing ads for use in several jurisdictions. ALCB notes that the trend toward "lifestyle" advertising by the brewers is a cause of concern to the Board.
	3.1.b Ban on testimonial advertising is meaningless, because U.S. testimonials are received on cable television.	3.1.b ALCB states that testimonial advertisements are not, to their knowledge, permitted by any provincial liquor code in Canada.
	3.2 Alberta beverage manufacturers object to the ALCB practice of purchasing only at the lowest price for which products are offered for sale.	3.2 (ALCB) The Board is simply following good commercial practice in insisting that it receive the best price at which a manufacturer is willing to sell its goods.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (cont'd)	3.3.a Wineries object to the ALCB practice of dropping products that do not sell well.	3.3.a (ALCB) The Board's practice is based upon the ordinary commercial considerations of allocating retail shelf space (a scarce resource), maintaining inventory, and utilizing capital, in a reasonably close relationship to the wants and needs of the Board customers
	3.3.b Wineries want more products listed by the ALCB.	3.3.b (ALCB) Additional listings over and above the basic allocation of 45 can be obtained by Alberta wineries. However, to do so the company must show that its brands are acceptable to consumers. Therefore, minimum sales volumes have been established and when these minimum levels have been achieved by the 45 basic listings, additional products can be introduced.
	3.3.c Alberta wineries want the ALCB to negotiate free entry of 4-litre containers to and from all provinces.	3.3.c (ALCB) The Board is interested in bringing in a 4-litre package. At the request of B.C. Wineries, the Board tried to achieve reciprocal arrangements with other Provinces, but to no avail. The request was refused.
CANADIAN PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION Referred to: Executive Council Energy & Natural Resources Economic Development Consumer & Corporate Affairs E.R.C.B. Environment Municipal Affairs F.I.G.A.	1. Government information requirements have become excessive and may be available from the government's own resources. Government information requirements keep changing.	1. (E.N.R.) It is the intention of E.N.R. to minimize the information requirement by only requesting information that is a clear necessity. The current development of a new data base system will also be a minimizing factor.
	2. Projects require the approval of several govenment agencies.	2. (Environment) Alberta Environment is the "one-window" coordinator for regulated surface operations, the Public Lands Division of E.N.R. for the non-regulated

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION (cont'd)		surface dispositions. The system can be put to greater use if specific situations can be identified.
	3. Different agencies or officials interpret regulations in differing ways.	3. (E.N.R. & E.R.C.B.) An effort has been made to standardize regulation interpretation and enforcement with industry personnel and other Government agencies. If a company identifies a specific regulation that Government staff have interpreted two ways, senior management will ensure that Government and company staff involved understand the intent of the regulation.
	4. Unannounced government guideline changes occur.	4. (Environment) New regulations or changes are usually discussed with industry prior to their implementation. More specific information would be required to assist in rectifying any problems.
	5. Procedure for obtaining Natural Gas Removal Permits is complicated.	5. (E.N.R.) The need for export permits has been reviewed in the past and cabinet has decided to retain this requirement.
	6. Reporting requirements for the Industrial Benefits program are too onerous, particularly for industrial, oil sands and core projects.	6. (Economic Development) Economic Development is conducting a review.
	7. The Association wants the Corporate Registry (Companies Branch) to notify Energy and Natural Resources of changes in corporate status. Presently there exists a lack of communication between the two.	7. (E.N.R.) Presently, the information can be obtained in the Registrar's periodical. Rush situations will be expedited through the system.
	8. Simplification of reporting procedures to E.R.C.B. is acknowledged. Further simplification is requested respecting wells with no test data or production.	8. (E.R.C.B.) Reports, including those on wells with nil production are required, as they form the records on which royalty payments are made. These reports cannot be eliminated at this time.
	9. Simplification is requested for	9. E.N.R.) E.N.R. staff have met with

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	Geophysical Program Approvals, some of which are now very complex.	various industry groups on a number of occasions and these discussions are on-going at the working level. Some reductions in the number of conditions contained in an approval are currently under review.
	10. Faster approval is requested for Water use Licenses.	10. (Environment) Alberta Environment has been reducing approval time required for Consumptive Use Water Licences. Typically, requests for temporary use of water are issued within one day.
	11. A simplification is requested for Reclamation Certificates following restoration of a drilling site.	11. (Environment & E.R.C.B.) The regulations dealing with reclamation certificates were amended in 1982, giving E.N.R. the responsibility of issuing reclamation certificates, thus eliminating this concern.
	12. Simplified procedures are requested for a variety of environmental, etc., approvals of gas plants.	12. (E.R.C.B. & Enivronment) E.R.C.B. and Environment are prepared to cooperate on clarification of roles and activities of each agency as well as hearing specific areas of concern. In an attempt to streamline procedures, E.R.C.B. and Environment are currently reviewing the approval process for sweet gas plants and sulphur block handling.
	13. Better co-ordination between agencies is requested for Environmental Impact Statements. An ERCB schedule detailing when an applicant may expect a deficiency list or a hearing, is needed.	13. (E.R.C.B. & Environment) The E.R.C.B. maintains a "one-window" position for applicants. Alberta Environment acts as coordinator for Government responses. It is not possible to establish in advance the timing of reviews, as each review is dependent upon the information submitted and the time required by industry to provide further information.
	14. Project approvals are too time-consuming.	14. (E.R.C.B.) Greater effort will be taken to reduce processing time for applications. E.R.C.B. will use a coordinator to assist in that role, where appropriate. Verbal approval, however, will not be reinstated at this time, as the approach was

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION (cont'd)		unsuccessful in the past.
	15. Pipeline approvals are subject to regulatory overlap and delay.	15. (E.R.C.B.) The E.R.C.B. is developing a new computer pipeline information system which will streamline the approval process. Consideration has been given to combining the permit and licence, but this does not appear to be practical at this time. The "one-window" approach has been favoured, with Environment handling regulated operations and the Public Lands Division the non-regulated activities. The E.R.C.B., in conjunction with other Government departments, is prepared to explore the increased use of the "one-window" concept.
	16. There is a proliferation of agencies with a regulatory interest in environment-related matters.	16. (Environment) Environmental matters are under the jurisdiction of the E.R.C.B. Alberta Environment serives as a "one-window" agency on behalf of other government departments that have concerns respecting applications. Environment would appreciate hearing specifics relating to a proliferation of government agencies dealing with environmental matters.
	17. Surface rights and land-use approvals are very time-consuming; there should be no obligation to obtain consent of grazing or other surface leases.	17. (E.N.R. & E.R.C.B.) The special land dispositions section is the "one-window" approach for surface disposition applications. Provision does not exist for Government departments to put forward their views at E.R.C.B. hearings so all aspects can be considered at the same time, reducing the total time necessary.
	18. Right-of-way applications (in forest areas and elsewhere) are inefficient.	18. (E.N.R.) Normally, amendment applications do not have to go through the entire referral process unless they involve a change of location, which impacts on other resources, or a requirement for additional land.
	19. Gas plant applications are now in	19. (Environment & E.R.C.B.) The con-

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	three stages; this should be reduced to one.	solidation of the three stages would have significant disadvantages to the E.R.C.B. and Alberta Environment, while saving to the industry would likely be insignificant.
CANADIAN ORGANIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS Referred to: Sent to all participating Departments and agencies.	1. Increase the accountability of regulators by the mandatory use of cost/benefit analysis in regulatory changes. (i) Mandatory adherence to Section 11-D of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms for those responsible for the development and enforcement of regulations. (ii) Compensation should be made to those found innocent of charges brought against them without reasonable cause. (Compensation costs to be added to the expense budget of the department, agency or board responsible for laying the charges). ii) A permanent legislative regulatory review board should also be established with: a. a mandate to monitor b. rotating membership of elected representatives c. a duty to limit the activities of all those responsible for developing and enforcing regulations.	1. Numerous government departments agree that the organizations' concerns are valid, although very general. It is difficult to resolve such demands. Concerns with specic regulations relating to small business, if detailed by the organization, will be dealt with by government departments. Most government departments that were approached on the issue of Cost-Benefit Analysis felt the procedure would not be appropriate or practical, given that many associated costs and benefits are not readily quantifiable. The Departments of Economic Development and Education felt the procedure could be used where feasible, while the Treasury Department conducts their own Cost-Benefit Analysis from the point of view of the Department and the impact to business communities. All departments adhere to Section 11(d) of The Charter of Rights and there are many acts under their jurisdiction that have built-in appeal mechanisms. Environment responded that an appeal procedure is available in the Land Surface Conservation & Reclamation Act. The formal/informal procedures parties have the option of going to court.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN ORGANIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS (cont'd)		With respect to awarding compensation for those found innocent of charges brought against them without reasonable cause, there was mixed response. Three of the responding Departments agreed with the recommendation: The Departments of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Tourism and Small Business, and Hospitals and Medical Care. Other Departments felt that the issue was unclear or that it required an examination of the implications of what would be "Reasonable Cause". Treasury further commented that compensation shows preferential treatment over individuals, who are only awarded costs in civil actions. Many Departments felt that establishing a permanent Legislation Regulatory Review Board would be useful, as long as it does not duplicate the responsibilities of existing government agencies. Existing Boards that review regulations with industry include: E.R.C.B., Provincial Board of Health, the A.L.C.B. Planning Committee. The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs further states that these regulation reviews should be ongoing at all levels of government.
	2. Reduce regulatory overkill by the mandatory use of written evidence that a new regulation or the modification of an existing regulation, is required.	2. While all the Departments agree that "Regulatory Overkill" should be reduced, some are already involved with taking a stringent approach to requests for new regulations. Labour uses national standards and maintains a liaison with industry when changes are anticipated. The A.L.C.B. continually reviews and modifies regulations. The E.R.C.B. and the Board of Health are under a certain amount of pressure from groups within the private sector who advocate the need for regulations dealing with legitimate public concern.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN ORGANIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS (cont'd)		Written evidence of a need for a new regulation would increase accountability according to the Departments of Education and Tourism and Small Business, Consumer and Corporate Affairs. O.H.I.S. suggests a comprehensive "Regulatory Proposal" be prepared for review by Social Planning prior to initiating a regulation.
	3. The control of regulation by use of sunset legislation and flexible application of regulations is suggested.	3. The Departments of Alberta Education, Tourism and Small Business, and Treasury believe sunset legislation may be effective in some instances. The other Departments responded that the better alternative would be ongoing reviews of existing and the need for new regulations; some felt that this was already taking place. Energy and Natural Resources points out that sunset legislation is not practical and that changes should be made as needed when identified by the industry or resource managers. Most of the Departments feel there is adequate flexibility within existing regulations; further flexibility of application could lead to serious concerns. Consumer and Corporate Affairs stated that these concerns would include "Selective Enforcement" or "Uneven application of the law". The Department of Education responded that flexible application is a desirable goal.
	4. Reduce the anti-business bias in the wording and intent of regulations.	4. (Education, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Tourism and Small Business, Energy and Natural Resources, Occupational Health and Safety, Alberta Liquor Control Board, Provincial Board of Health.) Many proposed regulations or changes are usually initiated by extensive public reviews and consultation with groups affected. It is the intent of the regulations to ensure fair and honest competition in the

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN ORGANIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS (cont'd)		business place and to monitor or control those who do not adhere to them, not to reflect an anti-business bias. Occupational Health and Safety suggests that concerns of this nature should be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the Department involved. Tourism and Small Business consider the problem to be one of public perception of the entrepreneur, more than wording of regulations. Wording changes would probably do little to alleviate the problem. The Department of Education believes a regulatory review board would alleviate the problems of wording and intent.
RED DEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		
Referred to: Culture Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs Housing Labour Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs Social Services & Community Health Tourism & Small Business Treasury Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation (OH&S Division)	1. Municipal Taxation Act should be amended to permit municipalities to initiate tax relief programs in designated areas for a period of at least five years.	1. (Treasury) The restrictions placed by the Municipal Taxation Act serve to maintain a degree of consistency of tax policy at the municipal level across the province. Tax competition among municipalities for the location of industrial and commercial enterprise may not lead to more total investment in the long run, but would result in less revenue or a reduced tax base for municipalities. (Municipal Affairs) The suggested amendment to the Municipal Taxation Act will be considered when the Act is next open for general amendments. A tax freeze that is limited in its application to only a portion of the municipality will discriminate against property owners who may be in competition with those receiving the benefit. Tax refund or cancellation would be more appropriate.
	2. The Alberta Building Regulation should be amended to allow the rehabilitation and change of use of all existing buildings if it can be shown that the level of safety is acceptable.	2. (Labour) Minor renovation projects need not be difficult or extremely costly because of the Alberta Building Code. The administration part of the code states that an inspector may issue a permit for construction in an

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
RED DEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (cont'd)		existing building, even if the construction of that existing building is not in complete compliance with the Code. This applies to all existing buildings, not just historic ones, but does include them in the breadth of its intent. The Alberta Building Code recognizes that there is a more significant safety difference when a building's use is changed than when a building is only refurbished or altered, yet retains the same use.
	3. The Public Health Act should be revised to allow local health inspectors the discretion to issue extensions of food premises permits to increase the temporary seating capacity for outdoor cafe use without demanding an increase in washroom facilities; the Act should be made consistent with the Building Code and also permit the outdoor preparation and serving of food.	3. (Social Services & Community Health; Labour) The concern for revision of the Public Health Act has been addressed by proposed amendments to the Alberta Building Code. The amendments would allow seasonal use, without requiring an increase in washroom facilities, where not more than 30 seats are provided. A consistent, uniform standard for washroom fixtures and seating capacity is also proposed. Since 1977, there has been no difference in the washroom requirements in the Alberta Building Code and the Provincial Health Regulations. There is no requirement for the preparation of all food inside a building, only that food be protected.
ACADEMIC & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS		
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ALBERTA		
Referred to: Culture Legislative Counsel Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs Municipal Affairs	1. Historic resources impact studies are the responsibility of the development proponent and should be paid for by the developer, as a progressive means to preserve our historical resources.	1. (Culture) Agree with this concern.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS		
ALBERTA COMMERCIAL EGG PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION Referred to: Agriculture Attorney General Legislative Counsel	1. Cumbersome requirements for changes to the Marketing or Agricultural Products Act respecting marketing plans.	1. The process by which the Act is administered has been outlined to the association, apparently to their satisfaction.
	2. The quota transfer system requires revision.	2. The Agricultural Products Marketing Council is currently studying the issue of the quota transfer system.
ALBERTA WHOLESALE IMPLEMENT ASSOCIATION Referred to: Consumer & Corporate Affairs Agriculture Treasury F.I.G.A. Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs Attorney General	1. Variable rate financing of equipment sales to farm, ranch, or feedlot operators should not be prohibited.	1. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs, F.I.G.A.. Treasury) The Credit and Loan Agreement Act is under review. Bill 56, The Credit Transactions Act, is a proposed replacement act.
	2. The Farm Implement Board membership should be reviewed to provide a more effective balance.	2. The Department of Agriculture favours maintaining the Farm Implement Board's membership as it is. (Representatives from P.I.M.A. and A.W.I.A. are able to bring the views of "short-line" and "main-line" wholesalers to the Board.)
	3. The procedure for a company to take security interest in equipment supplied to a dealer should be streamlined, such as has occurred in Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. These provinces have converted to the Personal Property Security Act.	3. (Attorney General) Some streamlining has occurred; although there has been no change of law, the vehicle registry and the central registry were grouped administratively under the Personal Property Registry. The Attorney General's office is building up a data base for conversion from paper filing to computer base.
	4. Manufacturers' Liens must be made available, in order to assist suppliers. It is a supplier's right to equipment that he has	4. Under review.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA WHOLESALE IMPLEMENT ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	supplied to a dealer.	
	5. Suppliers require more protection against receiverships and bankruptcies.	5. This issue falls within Federal jurisdiction.
	6. High costs are incurred in advertising finance programs. There exists the need to review the justification for a separate ad program for Alberta. This regulation inhibits a national program thus escalating costs.	6. Consumer and Corporate Affairs has informed the association that existing credit advertising sections of the Alberta Credit and Loans Agreement Act are being reviewed (Bill 56).
	7. The new implement act has not adequately defined the term "reasonable". At present, this term leaves many points open for interpretation.	7. The department of Agriculture explained to the association that the Farm Implement Board favours a general definition of the term "reasonable" as used in the current Farm Implement Act. This definition allows for "greater flexibility in the interests of all parties concerned."
CANADIAN FEED INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION Referred to: Solicitor General Agriculture Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation (OH&S Division) Labour Treasury F.I.G.A. Municipal Affairs Legislative Counsel Transportation	1. The inspection of feed industry operations system causes excessive interruptions to industry.	1. Labour has agreed to undertake weekend inspections of boilers on request from the operator.
	2. Complicated system of record-keeping with respect to fuel consumption and fuel tax between provinces.	2. Alberta Treasury has proposed to other provinces a simplified universal form for use in all provinces for the proration of license fees (and fuel tax and sales tax in other provinces).
	3. Inappropriate weight restrictions and excessively stringent enforcement of truck regulations by Alberta Highway Patrol.	3. Alberta Transportation is investigating the feasibility of "blanket permits" with respect to provincial roads. The Solicitor General department has advised that Alberta Highway Patrol officers have been asked to use greater discretion with

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
		respect to enforcement of regulations under the Motor Transport Act.
WESTERN CANADA FERTILIZER ASSOCIATION		
Referred to: F.I.G.A. Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs Agriculture Transportation Consumer & Corporate Affairs Economic Development Labour Environment	1. Ammonium nitrate storage and handling, proposed fire codes, CTC Board Order 0-33, submitted to the Alberta Fire Commissioner earlier this year.	1. The Alberta Fire Prevention Council has recommended changes to the original proposal which meets the concerns of the Fertilizer Association.
	2. Alberta Regulation 56/83, Transport of Anhydrous Ammonia on Alberta highways.	2. The Motor Transport Board has approved modification to the regulations to meet the concerns of the association.
	3. Gross vehicle weight restrictions should be increased from 110,000 lbs to 124,000 lbs.	3. Alberta is participating in a review of weight restrictions with the Roads and Transport Association of Canada with a view to standardizing regulations across Canada.
	4. Secondary road sprint bans impede delivery of fertilizer when it is needed.	4. The Motor Transport Board is now allowing fertilizer trucks with loads up to 90% axle weight on highways that are banned down to 75%, to specifically address this problem.
	5. Classification of anhydrous ammonia - "Poisonous Gas" - (federal regulations pursuant to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act).	5. The classification is under federal jurisdiction. The Alberta Government is negotiating an agreement with the Federal Government to ensure uniformity across Canada. An international working group on the issue is negotiating acceptance of the Canadian placards in the United States.
	6. Greater protection for the farmer from "miracle fertilizers".	6. This is a federal issue under the jurisdiction of Agriculture Canada.
	7. Provincial Soil Testing Laboratory should not be privatized.	7. The issue is being reviewed by the Department of Agriculture.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATIONS		
ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION **Referred to:** Environment Labour Occupational Health & Safety Div. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation) Municipal Affairs Public Works, Supply & Services Legislative Assembly F.I.G.A. Treasury Workers' Compensation Board	1. New regulations should be proven to be necessary - no duplication or overlap of already existing regulations. Regulations should be: (i) compatible with government policies (ii) the least burdensome of alternate government action (iii) subjected to a social and economic cost benefit analysis (iv) be clear and simple (v) be sunsetted to expire after 3-5 years, unless justified by an independent evaluation (vi) include the participation of interest groups in the formulation process and the demonstration of need.	1. The association's concerns are valid, although very general. Specific contentions with government regulations should be brought to the attention of the Economic Affairs Committee.
	2. Industry should be given advance notice of government intentions with respect to new or amending legislation.	2. The civil service "employs a number of specific means of informing industry of regulation initiatives", i.e., notices in the O.H.&S. magazine, specialized bulletin system. To add, draft regulations are forwarded to identified interest groups.
	3. Poor articulation and administrative overlap of the Alberta Fire Code with the existing Building Code and other legislation.	3. Labour asserts that the two codes do not "contain considerable duplication". A number of minor areas of regulatory duplication have been identified, i.e., ventilation washroom fixtures. These will be resolved to eliminate any problems affecting the construction industry.
	4. Swimming pool design and operating standards are subject to dupli-	4. The steering committee for the revision of the Recommended

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)	cation of jurisdictions with the Building Code, Electrical Protection Act, and Public Health Administrators.	Swimming Pool, Design and Operating Standards, an intergovernmental municipal/provincial committee, is currently reviewing the regulation with a view to revising it. The committee has been made aware of the Alberta Construction Association's concerns.
	5. Energy Conservation Regulations should be removed, since the energy crisis no longer exists.	5. The development of minimum values for thermal insulation, in the 1981 Alberta Building Code, is the only regulation governing energy conservation. This regulation is in response to high energy costs, and not to an energy crisis. "There is no evidence that energy costs have decreased since that time", therefore, no action is anticipated.
	6. Building standards, energy conservation, fire prevention, and safety regulations, as well as environmental controls and workers' compensation requirements impose excessive costs on the industry.	6. (Labour) Building standards involving fire prevention and life safety are developed in response to specific incidents in which losses of life or property have occurred and are considered a necessary cost factor. No further action considered at this time.
	7. Request for building permits should not be submitted to the Fire Marshal before construction can commence.	7. (Labour) The Fire Prevention Branch will not be involved in re-examination of plans submitted for building permits, nor in the approval process for building permits.
	8. Section 87, Labour Relations Act: Mail-in voting procedures should be permitted.	8. (Labour) The Labour Relations Board will consider mail-in ballots upon request.
	9. The sub-division approval process with the City of Edmonton, as well as other environmental controls, needs streamlining.	9. Environment, although not involved in the subdivision approval process, comes into contact with subdivision servicing in the planning stage. Environment asserts that "processing is done quickly at this stage".

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)	10. Excessive controls on the installation of incinerators in hospitals, i.e. emission requirements for hydrogen chloride without scrubbing.	10. (Environment) The emission requirements are part of federal incinerator guidelines adopted by the Alberta Government for use in the province. Architects should contact Alberta Environment regarding the installation of incinerators and the adherence to the Clean Air Act prior to installation, so that a planned compliance schedule could be agreed to and hold-backs eliminated.
	11. The planning process and Alberta legislation regarding land use and development.	11. (Municipal Affairs) The Government is committed to continuously reviewing the planning process, to make improvements in the legislation and the land use planning process, to promote the public interest and the protection of individual property rights.
	12. A joint government/industry task force should be set up, under the auspices of the Alberta Construction Association, to study the question of the regulatory process over a three-year period. The government should provide research facilities and financial backing.	12. (Municipal Affairs) In the future, if a task force was established, it "should probably include more than the Alberta Construction Association and both local and provincial government representatives.
	13. Workers' Compensation Board rates are too high and reduce profits of industry. (The notification of rate increases are given with little notice.)	13. (Workers' Compensation Board) As a result of discussions with the Alberta Construction Association in 1982, Cabinet requested a reduction in WCB rates to recognize the overall difficulties of industry. Future plans call for a joint review of assessment rates in June of each year. Industry can reduce costs by way of the Merit Rebate Program, where attention to safety in the workplace results in lower cost levels. Industry recently had an opportunity to express its views on costs to the Select Committee of the Legislature. A joint management/worker advisory committee to the Minister

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)		responsible for Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation conducts an annual review of benefit levels and recommends changes to the Minister.
	14. Environmental controls and Workers' Compensation are the most notable areas of cost imposition.	14. (Workers' Compensation Board) "Industry has the opportunity to reduce costs by way of the merit rebate program". Review of compensation legislation, by a Select Committee of the Legislature, provides industry with the opportunity to express its views on cost and benefit levels. Also, an annual review of benefit levels is conducted by a joint management - worker Advisory Committee. This committee recommends changes in benefit levels to the Minister.
	15. Businessmen are seldom aware of Government's intentions with new or amending legislation.	15. The O.H.&S. division employs a number of specific means - notices in O.H.&S. magazine, specialized bulletin system, draft regulations forwarded to interest groups - of informing industry of regulation initiatives.
	16. Need for co-operation between industry, labour and government.	16. The O.H.&S. Division promotes cooperation with the ACA and other associations, as a means to promoting O.H.&S. outside of the regulatory framework.
	17. Administrative costs related to the implementation of standards, the management of regulated activities, form filling, and records retention.	17. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation (OH&S Duvision) Compliance with O.H.& S. legislation will entail some costs to industry. However, recent regulatory initiatives have been very sensitive to costs associated with compliance with the O.H.&S. Act and regulations. This awareness has resulted in an emphasis on drafting performance rather than specific regulations.
	18. Requirement for submission and approval of construction plans to Occupational Health and Safety	18. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation (OH&S Division) A recently-approved General Safety Regulation, AR 448/83, comes into effect on

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)	engineers prior to construction, where a project includes a large excavation or tower crane.	September 1, 1984. Current requirements for notification will be repealed from Occupational Health and Safety regulations without replacement, as a result of this new regulation.
	19. Requirement that permission be received by the offices of Transportation and/or City Hall, if extra heavy or large construction materials or supplies are to be hauled to the site.	19. Under review.
	20. Duplication of inspection once the project is under construction.	20. Currently under review by the Occupational Health & Safety Division (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation) and Alberta Labour.
	21. Cost of compulsory pre-job or jobsite meetings called at the discretion of a government employee and with compulsory attendance by a contractor's personnel.	21. Occupational Health & Safety Division (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation) Attendance is generally voluntary and compulsory only where a contractor appears to be not following the minimum health and safety standard. Public Works, Supply and Services considers these meetings to be essential, but have attempted to reduce the frequency of the meetings and the number of contractor representatives required to attend.
ALBERTA PLASTERING ASSOCIATION		
Referred to: Public Works, Supply & Services	1. Sub-contractors and suppliers should be paid directly by government in case of default by the general contractor.	1. A sub-contractor is protected by the Public Works Act in the event that a general contractor fails to pay for work done and should submit a claim within the 35-day limit.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
HOUSING & REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATIONS		
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS		
Referred to:	General Regulatory Issues	
Culture Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs Labour Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation (OH&S Division)	1. The localized subdivision approving authorities should have the legislative mandate to grant time extensions with respect to registration of subdivision instruments, given their familiarity with specific proposals.	1. (Municipal Affairs) Since the local subdivision approving authority is more familiar with the local situation, it seems the appropriate agency to grant such an extension. In certain cases, however, the Alberta Planning Board should retain this right, i.e. subdivison approval granted by the Board as a result of appeals.
	2. We suggest that ways be investigated to de-centralize and streamline the subdivision appeal process of the Alberta Planning Board, and thus save considerable monies.	2. (Municipal Affairs) In actuality, the Alberta Planning Board appears quite cost-conscious in its operation. In order to minimize travel costs, appeals are grouped so that members can hear several appeals in one meeting. The Board favours five members sitting in each hearing, although three constitutes a quorum. This appears to be the minimum number necssary for a fair hearing, so the suggestion of further size reduction would be inappropriate.
	3. The Development Appeal Board should be required to hold a hearing 15 days from receipt of notice of appeal, rather than 30 days. The issuance of a decision could be reduced to seven days from 15 days.	3. (Municipal Affairs) The present requirement for holding a hearing within 30 days seems to be the minimum feasible time within which to carry out the notification requirements. The 15 days' time limit gives the municipality adequate time to handle the paper work and administrative details. As such, shortening time limits could bring undue hardship on the municipalities, with very little benefit to the public involved.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS (cont'd)	4. The procedure to approve single parcel residential subdivision in the rural areas could be simplified. The provincial government should investigate a more expedient approval process for severances that conform with existing planning legislation. Historical Impact Assessment(s) hamper the development process; the province should examine the administrative encumbrances.	4. (Municipal Affairs) It has been government policy that farmstead separation is a universal right. Relevant legislation to formally implement this policy has been prepared. All regional planning commissions have been required to include this policy in their regional plans before Ministerial ratification. The Department of Culture rarely requires Historical Impact Assessments on single parcel subdivisions; the process is seldom as cumbersome as implied. (Culture) The review of proposed first parcel-out subdivisons does not appear to be a cause of delay to development approval. It is largely done in order to avoid the necessity of Regional Subdivision Approval Authorities having to screen subdivision applications prior to sending them to Culture. No delays have been caused by the process of reviewing subdivisions, in general, in Alberta. The most feasible alternative to achieve their objective is non-review of subdivisions except in pre-identified areas of high priority. Most Regional Planning Commissions prefer not to pre-screen, however. Alberta Culture has become increasingly selective of those developments for which impact assessments are called, and first parcel-out/single parcel rural subdivisions are routinely screened out. The association's concern with the "administrative encumbrances that appear to hamper the development process" is perhaps a justified concern, although the source of delays does not lie with Alberta Culture.
	5. Delegation of relaxation provisions to staff levels should be examined with respect to non-conforming uses and buildings.	5. (Municipal Affairs) Before delegation of such power to the staff level was contemplated, a more comprehensive study of the problem of equity would be advisable.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS (cont'd)	6. The delays and complications of obtaining the Minister's approval could be eliminated through the delegation of such approval authority to provincial government staff. Perhaps a second solution would be encouragement of self-government by having well-managed improvement districts incorporate as municipal districts.	6. (Municipal Affairs) The Minister of Municipal Affairs has recognized the benefit of incorporating improvement districts into municipal districts; accordingly, Improvement District #10 is now Municipal District of Clearwater, and Improvement District #1 is now Municipal District of Cypress, as of January 1, 1985. Every effort is made to process Ministerial orders as expeditiously as possible once they are recommended by the Improvement District Sdvisory Council involved.
	7. It is often difficult and extremely costly to change an existing building to meet the new National Building Code requirements, which are consequently a major deterrent to minor renovation projects. Alberta Building Regulation should be amended to allow the rehabilitation and change of use of all existing buildings, if it can be shown that the level of safety is acceptable.	7. (Labour) Minor renovation projects need not be difficult or extremely costly because of the Alberta Building Code. The current Code permits what the association is asking with respect to rehabilitation and change of use of existing buildings. We would be willing to meet with the association and explain these provisions in greater detail or answer any questions concerning the Alberta Building Code.
ALBERTA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION Referred to: Consumer & Corporate Affairs Culture FIGA Housing Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs	1. Certain amendments to the Planning Act would clarify concerns. The AHBA recommends the Provincial Government facilitate, by joint review with those involved in the land development process, the resolution of interpretive differences of the Act and to amend where appropriate.	1. (Municipal Affairs) Many concerns have been resolved with Bill 13, The Planning Amendment Act. (Housing) Many problems with the system lie with the local planning authorities, rather than with the Planning Act. Many concerns have been addressed by Bill 13.
	2. The current Condominium Property Act contains restrictions that prevent development. Suggested changes should be considered.	2. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) Consideration of the multitude of suggestions received could be given to a special committee. Opening of the Condominium Property Act is expected to invoke a great deal of public debate, with groups and individuals often taking opposite positions on specific issues.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	3. The Law of Property Act should be amended to prevent placing the house building corporation in jeopardy of deficiency judgement on houses it builds. The type of corporation defined in Section 43 should be changed.	3. (Housing) The Department of Housing shares AHBA's concern regarding the current liability of many builders in the case of mortgage default by purchaser after assuming lender-approved mortgage. However, these concerns must be weighted against the concerns of the lenders and any changes to the Law of Property Act should be acceptable to both lenders and builders.
	4. While the Landlord and Tenant Act clearly proports to give power to the provincial Court to grant orders of possession, difficulty derives from the division of powers between federal and provincial governments.	4. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) Legislative change appears to be the only procedure available if a change is desired. The section permitting the Provincial Court to grant an order of possession could be repealed and only permit a landlord and tenant to proceed directly to the Court of Queen's Bench.
	5. It is recommended that clearer definitions of normal wear and tear be developed, in conjunction with concerned parties, with subsequent amendments made to The Landlord and Tenant Act.	5. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) While The Landlord and Tenant Act could be amended to provide a clear definition of "wear and tear", interpretation would still remain with the courts. Amending the definition may not benefit the tenant, as disagreements would still need resolution in the courts.
	6. Recent receiverships of rental projects have resulted in some tenants losing security deposits. AHBA recommends industry input before any legislative recourse is considered.	6. (Housing & Consumer & Corporate Affairs) Presently, a Receiver is before the courts on a failure to return a security deposit. The court's judgement may provide a clearer definition of the responsibility of the Receiver; depending on the outcome, further steps may have to be taken.
	7. In consultation with industry, the Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act should be amended to specifically reflect requirements of property management, contrasted to those of licensed real estate agents.	7. (Housing) A review of the legislation as regards property management should be considered. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) The legislation could be amended to exempt property managers who are engaged in a leasing function, yet include them under a licensing of trades and business regulation.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	8. The Historical Resources Act has added archaeological reviews in the development approval process that can be a very large cost factor to the developer/owner and subsequently the home purchaser. Since the Act was enacted to preserve the heritage of Alberta, the cost should be borne by the public at large. Compensation is not specifically prescribed in the Act.	8. (Housing & Culture) Officials from Alberta Culture will speak with the Urban Development Institute and AHBA regarding requirements of the Historcal Resources Act for historical impact assessments (HRIA's). Alberta Culture is prepared to provide owners and developers with information early in the development process of the likelihood and extent of this requirement, by preparing maps of the province's major cities and their vicinities, indicating the likelihood of archaeological or paleontological resources in these areas. Alberta Culture will continue to be selective in requiring HRIA's and preservation measures and will encourage developers to bury or avoid rather than excavate sites. Consideration will be given to a formal appeal mechanism to supplement informal appeals. It appears the possibility of compensation was contemplated by the legislature in the Historical Resources Act, Section 46. (Culture) Given that our heritage would continue to exist in situ if not for disturbance due to development proponents, it should be their responsibility to compensate the people of Alberta for their loss. Alberta Culture adopts the provincial position of proponent pays. Historical impact assessments are requested from about 4% per year of total subdivision applicants. Average increase in housing cost due to archaeology is calculated to be 0.00818% (Source: Residential Construction in Alberta, August 1983, Alberta Department of Housing). The Historical Resources Act has increased awareness in Alberta heritage significantly, at a very low cost, and has not necessitated the growth of a costly government agency at the expense of taxpayers.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	Alberta Government Housing Programs	
	9. AHBA takes the position that the AHMC should be a lender of last resort in cases where conventional lenders are unwilling or unable to service the need. The Alberta Family Home Purchase Program should be administered by the private sector. Subsidies should be made to the individual, not the housing unit. The Shell Housing Option should be dropped, as it is unpopular with consumers.	9. (Housing) It is not the position of the government that Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation should purely be a lender of last resort. Lending levels in the program over the past three years have been substantially cut back. It is inappropriate that the program be administered by the private sector, since there are rationing, eligibility, and security requirement changes involved. Shell housing, requested by members of the industry, will be maintained as a program option.
	10. Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation, in its role to provide assistance to families able to participate in the construction of their home, becomes a direct competitor to the private sector. The program, as viewed by the builders, artificially removes profit and assumes the builder's role at no cost to the purchaser, negatively contributing to an already difficult builder market place. The program should be cancelled.	10. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) If financing is withdrawn, homes under co-operative housing plans would not continue to be built, and complaints from the co-operative movement would be received. The principle of government financing is a political decision.
	11 The Core Housing Incentive Program and the Modest Apartment Program place a heavy burden on capital budgets, respond slowly to market conditions, and provide false market stimulus.	11. (Housing) Due to the current oversupply situation in the rental market, the Core Housing Incentive Program has been suspended and the Modest Apartment Program has been reduced to 200 units. The MAP program deals with vacancy problems in smaller communities, where the private sector has not provided enough rental accommodations.
	12. Cost of the Municipal Non-Profit Program and the Community Housing Program has never been made available and cost efficient. The AHBA recommends that private industry should have the opportunity to house families on these programs	12. (Housing) The Municipal Non-Profit Program has been suspended and the Community Housing Program budget has been reduced to 100 units, due to rental oversupply. The wisdom of introducing a new shelter allowance program, as suggested, is questionable, given the limited number of eligible households not already served by the programs above.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	13. Present available government funds promote construction of senior citizen lodges in questionable market conditions at the expense of adequate existing rental stock. It is proposed that the private sector capitalize, administrate and provide support functions to projects such as the senior citizen lodge program and the senior citizens' self-contained housing program.	13. (Housing) It is the government's intention to continue administering these programs, in their present form, due to their high level of public approval and support.
	14. It is suggested that the residential land development program be continued. However, existing banking ed. However, existing banking institutions such as the Treasury Branch, deliver and administer the program.	14. (Housing) This program will be continued, but at a reduced level in the short term. The program will continue to be administered by the AHMC, rather than banking institutions, because of the risks involved in the financing of land developments.
	15. The AHBA is opposed to municipal land banking, due to the inherent risks when in direct competition with the private sector. The AHBA suggests discontinuing the Alberta Residential Land Programs. Municipalities wishing to land bank should utilize the traditional forms of municipal financing available to them.	15. (Housing) The program and the land banks acquired under the program are currently under review. Ways of increasing private sector involvement in this area are under consideration. Due to the current over-supply of land, the program has been cut back substantially.
ALBERTA REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION		
Referred to: Municipal Affairs Legislative Counsel F.I.G.A. Consumer & Corporate Affairs	1. Government should review the need for licensing of real estate salespeople.	1. The Real Estate Agents' Licensing Amendment Act, 1984 received royal assent. This act dealt with the association's concerns.
	2. There is a need to establish a feduciary security fund, to be administered by the industry. This fund will replace the present bonding system, with the objective of self-regulation for the real estate industry.	2. The Real Estate Agents' Licensing Amendment Act, 1984, established a Real Estate Assurance Fund.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
EDMONTON REAL ESTATE BOARD Referred to: Economic Development F.I.G.A. Housing Treasury	1. Brief submitted by the Board was the same brief that the Canadian Real Estate Association submitted to the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects For Canada (The MacDonald Commission).	1. The Alberta Government departments have not identified any comments that relate to specific regulatory problems in Alberta.
URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE ALBERTA Referred to: Municipal Affairs Legislative Counsel Housing	1. Subdivision and Transfer Regulations, Part II 6(1) of the Planning Act should be amended to require fewer circulation numbers and grant the Planning Approval Authority the right to proceed after 30 days, by placing an item on the Authority's meeting agenda for approval. The authority will, thus, operate under the premise that authorities that have not responded within 30 days have accepted the terms of the item.	1. (Municipal Affairs) To alter the Planning Act, as suggested by the Institute, is "impractical and unrealistic". (Housing) It is more appropriate for the U.D.I. to "discuss policies with the subdivision approving authorities rather than restraining their judgement through the Subdivision Regulation".
	2. The Planning Act (Non-Statutory Plans). Non-Statutory Plans should not be required. Regulations should be amended so that only the statutory plans are required by an approval authority.	2. (Municipal Affairs) Department is currently reviewing planning regulations and practices with the parties concerned. Should circumstances appear to warrant any changes, the appropriate recommendations will be forthcoming.
	3. The use of private consultants should be permitted for submissions to Planning Commissions (i.e., in Calgary, the City requires that only city planners can prepare submissions to the Calgary Planning Commission.	3. (Municipal Affairs) There are no provisions under the planning legislation preventing a municipality from engaging the services of private consultants. It appears that U.D.I.'s concerns, according to the Housing Department, are not aimed at the Planning Act and Subdivision Regulation themselves, "but rather at the way that municipal and regional planning authorities are using the latitude accorded to them under the Act and Regulation".

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ENERGY AND RESOURCES ORGANIZATIONS		
ALBERTA CHAMBER OF RESOURCES		
Referred to: E.R.C.B. Energy & Natural Resources Environment Labour Municipal Affairs Economic Development F.I.G.A. Legislative Counsel	1. Proposes the establishment of a joint industry/government task force to undertake a consultant study on the regulatory reform process.	1. The Caucus Committee, having been asked to perform this function, has invited the Chamber of Resources to submit a second brief with actionable items identified.
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOPHYSICAL CONTRACTORS		
Referred to: Energy & Natural Resources Environment Treasury	1. Reduction in the time required to receive geophysical and wellsite approvals. (i) standardize guidelines; (ii) reduce and simplify the number of operating conditions included in an approval; iii) restrict the downward delegation of ministerial authority to a Forest Officer IV or his equivalent.	1. (ENR) The maximum ten working day approval time for geophysical applications is necessary to allow time for an inspection and review of the site by field staff. Many applications are approved in less time. If section 15 was strictly followed, the vast majority of applications could be dealt with in 5 working days. The maximum turn-around time of 15 days for well site and access road applications is also necessary. Many applications are reviewed in less than 15 days. The 10-day processing time being requested may be possible to comply with if companies had the particular site inspected in the field before filing their application. In addition, applications can be handled on a "rush" basis - due to circumstances unforeseen by the applicant - by the Special Land Dispositions Section in the

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOPHYSICAL CONTRACTORS (cont'd)		Public Lands Division. (i) ENR realizes the need for standardized guidelines. (ii) ENR agrees that there can be some reduction in the number of conditions contained in an approval. During the past two years a task force has been working towards reducing the number of conditions and stating the intent of each plainly. iii) (ENR) A Forest Officer at I, II, or III level may only recommend that application approval be denied, a matter is always reviewed at a more senior level.
	2. Limit government department concerns to Long-Term disruptions of their particular discipline. (i) clarify the intentions of the provincial government (ii) specify each government department's role in the development of the provinces resources language.	2. ENR agrees with the association. Environment "requires more explanation" before it can reply.
	3. Government agencies could provide several unique information services at a minimal cost, i.e., updated forest trail maps, flowing hole maps.	3. (ENR) The feasibility of preparing flowing hole maps for the entire province is currently being assessed by the Exploration Branch. The Alberta Forest Service prepares detailed maps after final plans are submitted by the companies on April 1st of each year. These maps are as "timely and updated" as economically feasible.
	4. Government agencies directly interfacing with the oil industry should be responsive to swings in activity by area - restricted working season and re-allocation. of departmental personnel.	4. Energy and Natural Resources agrees and "would note that both are being done at the present time".
	5. Access to leased crown land, i.e., grazing reserves, by the geophysical industry should be governed by	5. (ENR) The department is aware of this concern, but the "magnitude of the problem is not fully

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOPHYSICAL CONTRACTORS (cont'd)	the same regulations as those applying to leased road allowances. Counties and municipalities should not be permitted to restrict access of oil industry activities on public roads.	known". Public Lands & Wildlife is reviewing a number of public lands policies and this matter will be assessed in the review. (Environment) It is not recommended to grant blanket approvals for geophysical work on Crown land where the Department of Environment holds a reservation, i.e., dams, canals, hydropower developments. (Municipal Affairs) A grazing lease is quite different from a leased road allowance. If the association's recommendation is accepted, the potential exists for the 48-hour notice to become the rule, rather than the exception. Also, the association's proposals for Crown grazing leases must not include Metis settlements. (Transportation) The "practical approach which the department follows in the application of the regulations governing geophysical activities within the road rights-of-ways" has lead to a positive relationship between the department and the association. (Agriculture) The legal occupier of property (owned or leased) must be able to control access to it by others to ensure economic viability and physical security.
	6. The Workers' Compensation Act, 1981, Section 123. Geophysical contractors should not be liable for payment of all Workers' Compensation Board payments which are not paid by a sub-contracted firm.	6. (Workers' Compensation Board) Under Section 123 of the Act, a principal is liable only for the assessment pertaining to the labour portion of the work done for him, and not for "all workers' compensation payments". This method has proved successful in the majority of cases. Section 123 (3) and (4) clearly state the mechanism by which a principal

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOPHYSICAL CONTRACTORS (cont'd)		may protect himself from a defaulting contractor. Municipal Affairs suggests that the association members obtain a declaration from contractors and sub-contractors that the Workers' Compensation premiums have been paid.
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA		
Referred to: Culture Economic Development Energy & Natural Resources Environment E.R.C.B. Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs Labour Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs Public Lands & Wildlife Social Services & Community Health	General Regulatory Issues 1. Further improvement to the "one-window" system is suggested. The E.R.C.B., as co-ordinator of the system has little direct control over it. Legislation has expanded to the extent that best interests are no longer served, short and long-term high costs are involved. Therefore, significant changes in the relevant legislation and in the structure of relevant government departments may be required.	1. (Culture, Worker's Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division, Transportation, Economic Development) All departments support strengthening and clarifying the role of the E.R.C.B. as a "one-window lead agency and feel streamlining the approval process is a desirable goal. (Energy & Natural Resources, Environment, E.R.C.B.) There is an agreement that the approval process is complex and has numerous administrative problems for both industry and government. The suggestion that effective streamlining can only be achieved through fundamental changes in legislation is not necessarily true. Most effective means of addressing the C.A.C.'s concerns are through streamlining the present system. A task force has now been initiated between ENR, Environment and ERCB to look into approvals for all energy projects and removing overlaps and duplication. The review would include ways of strengthening the "one-window" regulatory format and an examination of the approval process through all stages of coal development.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	2. With respect to the coal policy, the four-part approval system is inefficient.	2. (E.R.C.B.) The E.R.C.B., Environment and E.N.R. have agreed to a full review of the coal approval system, including overlaps, lead agencies, and co-ordination of information requirements, etc.
	3. The Energy Resources Conservation Act is inefficient; the hearing process is too time-consuming and expensive.	3. (E.R.C.B.) Co-ordination of departments and their involvement in the review and hearing process is a major topic for the E.R.C.B./Environment, E.N.R. review. It is unlikely, however, that a change in coal policy will result in fewer hearings.
	4. Too many approvals are required in all of the related Acts.	4. (E.R.C.B.) Co-ordination and consolidation of approvals will be examined in the overall review of the procedures.
	5. There is a need for clarity of information requirements.	5. (E.R.C.B.) The guidelines available to the proponent, such as E.R.C.B.'s G-2 "How to Apply for Coal Mine Approvals in Alberta" will be reviewed. A revised guide for the mine-site and processing plant approval is under development. Also, E.R.C.B. is proposing a review on the Coal Coal Conservation Act and Regulations, due to changes in policy and procedure and to cover public safety.
	6. Role and information requirement of OH&S not clear with respect to Coal Mines Safety Act and Regulations.	6. (E.R.C.B.) The co-ordination of the Mines Inspection Branch and E.R.C.B. is covered by the accord between the agencies. Until now, Mine Safety Regulations are enacted; the Mines Inspection Branch (OH&S) administers the Coal Mines Safety Act and Regulations as representatives of the E.R.C.B.
	7. No single lead agency for the co-ordination of the entire approval process.	7. (E.R.C.B.) The designation of lead agencies and co-ordinating groups is part of the joint review process.
	8. Too many overlapping approvals in all Acts.	8. (E.R.C.B.) This concern will also fall under joint review.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	9. Reporting requirements excessive in administering Coal Mining Safety Act and Coal Conservation Act.	9. (E.R.C.B.) The reporting required from Mines Inspection Branch (OH&S) & E.R.C.B. have been addressed by an accord on joint requirements and procedures. Much of the reporting is maintained by a good operator for his own purposes, and as such the Board considers the concern may not be justified.
	10. Reporting requirements excessive and duplication exists in the Land Surface Conservation Act Reclamation Act, Clean Water Act, Public Lands Act and Coal Conservation Acts.	10. (E.R.C.B.) Areas of excessive reporting requirements do exist and should be addressed in the joint review. Much duplication, however, is due to industry's lack of understanding of government's responsibilities and misuse of set up to assist them.
	Philosophy Issues	
	11. The current coal policy does not present a positive view of future coal resource development.	
	12. Draft policy states only that coal developments must provide net benefits to Alberta, whereas a much stronger statement is required.	
	Land Classification & Rights Acquisition	
	13. Current zoning policy is inflexible. There is a need to reduce the current policy identification of land from four categories to two, they being "go" and "no-go" land categories.	13. (E.R.C.B.) The E.R.C.B. would endorse the deletion of the category system as a progressive change.
	14. The time required to review applications for land re-classification is excessive. Three-month time limit on application review is suggested.	14. (E.R.C.B.) The E.R.C.B. agrees with the recommendation.
	15. Policy should have reference to freehold compensation.	15. Under review.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	16. Present leasing system should be changed such that the government committee simply comments on likely environmental constraints on exploration and development rather than review leasing of coal rights with power to refuse a lease.	16. (E.R.C.B.) The Board considers that the Crown Mineral Review Committee may not be necessary for coal.
	17. Draft policy states that undisposed crown coal rights will generally be required by competitive tender, whereas previously, sufficient interest had to be shown. This change could reduce exploration and development.	17. Under review.
	18. More details on intent and objectives of new policy regarding development of the transportation system is required.	18. (Transportation) This policy is directly related to the Government's stated objective of developing Alberta's resources in an orderly and appropriate manner. Alberta Transportation will have to continue to advise decision-makers on the transportation infrastructure and implicit costs.
	19. The current four-part approval system is inefficient.	19. (E.R.C.B.) E.R.C.B., Environment, and E.N.R. have agreed to a full review of the coal approval system.
	20. Integrated resource management plans require clarification and justification.	20. (E.R.C.B.) A joint review of the I.R.M.P. process is required.
	21. Zoning system in existing policy is not consistent with draft coal policy.	21. (E.R.C.B.) A joint review of this policy, pertaining to integrated resource plans process, would be appropriate.
	Exploration and Initial Access	
	22. No details provided in the draft policy regarding work deposits for new leases.	22. Under review.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	23. Requirements of exploration permits for use of exploration equipment is antiquated; duplication of approval for exploration licences exists.	23. (E.R.C.B.) Deletion of exploration permits entirely would not be in the best interest of the industry. However, the joint review could address this concern as well as that of duplication.
	24. Unrealistic conditions set in critical wildlife zones, such as some of the requirements for new roads.	24. (Transportation) More co-ordination regarding the administration of private roads, licence of occupation roads, and the long range pattern of public roads will eventually be required on a broader area development basis.
	25. Unfair treatment of coal exploration programs relative to oil and gas exploration.	25. (E.N.R.) Under review.
	26. Exploration approvals involve duplication, time delays, and lack of co-ordination between departments with respect to approval conditions.	26. (E.N.R.) Under review.
	27. There have been cases of compromised confidentiality of drilling information.	27. (E.R.C.B.) The E.R.C.B. feels adequate protection of confidential information is provided by the Board's release procedures and by Sections 51 and 52 of the Coal Conservation Regulations.
	28. E.R.C.B. requests excessive reporting during exploration, which should be reduced or deleted.	28. (E.R.C.B.) The reporting information is required, as it is used by government departments and also benefits industry by establishing seasonal trends and the significance of coal exploration.
	Preliminary Disclosure	
	29. Information required for disclosure is excessive. Government fails to realize that disclosure is based on preliminary information that may require modification and that years may pass between preliminary disclosure and the next approval stage.	29. (E.N.R.) Under review.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	30. Review and decision procedures are lengthy, inflexible and demand excessive information.	30. Under review.
	31. Proponent should be allowed to make decision on public disclosure of preliminatry plans. Without this, confidentiality is compromised. Draft policy does not refer to appeal procedures on final decisions of preliminary disclosures.	31. (Transportation) Preliminary public disclosure alerts the Government of potential transportation infrastructures to be considered as "net benefits". The information required is intended to assist in resolving items as a project moves through the stages and to identify individuals within the departments who can further assist in those resolutions.
	Public Disclosure & Initial Mine Application	
	32. Field representatives seem unfamiliar with the process of public disclosure. Terms within the policy need defining.	32. Under review.
	32. Lead Government agency at the procedures stage changes from E.N.R. to E.R.C.B. Continuity is lost and new contacts and relationships must be established.	33. (E.R.C.B.) The "one-lead agency" concept may not be possible; however, the joint review could consider this.
	34. Overlapping jurisdictions produce inter-departmental conflicts, with the applicant caught in the middle.	34. (E.R.C.B. & Transportation) The joint review of approval procedures should examine solutions to this problem. Standardizing and consolidating information requirements is possible. It may be better for the Transportation Department to undertake a separate transportation impact assessment instead of requiring the proponent to do this.
	35. Information requirements on applications are constantly changing and are not well-documented.	35. (E.R.C.B.) Information requirements are not constantly changing. It is nearly impossible to draft specific regulations to fit every mining environment. The Board does not require any information which a good engineering and operating team does not require for its own use. However, these requirements will be examined.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	36. Stand-alone documents required by various review agencies leads to a great deal of duplication.	36. (E.R.C.B.) A standardized form of application package will be proposed, eliminating duplication and stand-alone documents.
	37. Environment expects that the same level of detail be submitted for all areas within a proposed permit boundary. Recommend review.	37. (E.R.C.B.) Level of detail will be reviewed with Environment. The recommendation is, in fact, policy.
	38. Overlap of deficiency statements issued by E.R.C.B. and Environment. The preparation of these statements and setting of hearing dates take an excessive amount of time. Time limits on these procedures should be set.	38. (E.R.C.B.) Procedures to edit irrelevant deficiencies, minimize delays, and co-ordinate concerns will be considered by the joint review. Setting time limits for all reviews, however, is not a practical solution, as the review time is dependent upon the size and complexity of the application.
	39. Hearings are too "global" in nature and too much time is spent on government policy issues.	39. (E.R.C.B.) Pre-hearing identification of issues could be used to reduce length of hearings. The Coal Association of Canada's concern will be considered by the joint review. (Transportation) The preliminary steps of the approval process are necessary for the Government to undertake broad evaluations. These evaluations should involve industry input.
	40. Corporate interveners with vested interests have abused the hearing process.	40. (E.R.C.B.) The concern has been referred to the Board's legal department for consideration.
	41. Excessive time taken to prepare and issue decision reports and to issue Order-in-Council and Ministerial Approval. Time limits should be placed.	41. (E.R.C.B.) A new form of decision report should ease problem. Specific time limits can not be set, due to varying nature of each situation. E.N.R. and Environment should review permit approval delays in authorization by Order-in Council and Ministerial Approval.
	42. Environment's self-appointed status as leader of public participation leads to lack of	42. (E.R.C.B., Transportation) E.R.C.B.'s involvement with public participation is restricted

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	co-ordination and jurisdictional disputes among Departments.	to informing public of hearing process and pertinent legislation. Transportation agrees that these jurisdictional disputes should be resolved by the Departments involved.
	43. Requirement for formalized public participation (i.e. public meetings) very early in the planning process is unrealistic, as there is insufficient information.	43. (E.R.C.B.) Public information program is necessary, but the organization of the program should be the responsibility of the proponent. There is no requirement to resolve issues, only to provide information.
	44. Environment does not allow use of existing socio-economic information, placing tremendous burden on local officials and the applicant.	44. (ER.C.B. & Environment) Socio-economic information requirements should be established by discussion and agreement in the preparation of the application. Methods to further streamline the application process will be reviewed by the task force.
	45. Development and reclamation approval process was changed into a two-stage process, leading to delays and additional application costs.	45. (E.R.C.B.) The change was to the benefit of the projects concerned, as the proponents were unable to address the mining areas in sufficient detail when development reclamation approval was initially requested.
	46. Lack of uniform guidelines to rank the importance of sites.	46. (Culture) Culture's staff are actively working towards drafting a series of guidelines for implementation, as well as field monitoring of archaeological consultants' recommendations prior to regulatory follow-up. In several instances, the monitoring has lead to a major reduction in recommended work and project costs.
	Development & Licencing	
	47. The Mines Inspection Branch does not have a clear definition of its mandate and requirements, resulting in inadequate or excessive submissions by developers and operators.	47. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division) Proposed new "Mine Safety Regulation" will correct this situation, as it has been developed in such a manner as to reduce the number of of submissions and approvals that are required.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	48. Letters of No Objection are difficult to obtain and involve delays.	48. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division) Currently, there are limited delays in the process, due to improvements in the review program.
	49. Conflicts between regulatory agencies can arise in the permits and approvals procedure.	49. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division) Administrative co-ordination, improvements in inter-departmental reviews, and inspections of coal and other mines will continue to be a division priority. (Labour) No conflict exists here. It is the role of the local municipality to issue approvals or permits, as appropriate. There is no building permit system in use by the Building Standards Branch. (Environment) Guidelines for coal department engineers have been clearly defined on this matter ever since the Inspection Branch was transferred in 1978.
	50. Implementation of policy and setting of standards is being done at the administrative level without industry consultation.	50. (E.R.C.B.) This concern is under joint review.
	51. Development and Reclamation Review Committee emphasizes restoring land capability without assessing cost implications and feasibility; this emphasis should be stopped until the implications are known. Major policy decisions should be made at policy, rather than administrative level.	51. (E.R.C.B.) The Board disagrees with the recommendation. Adoption of capability criteria is to the benefit of the industry.
	52. Information required in application for D&R approval is excessive and duplicates much of the information required in an E.R.C.B. Mine Licence Application.	52. (E.R.C.B.) This requirement will be under joint review.
	53. Stringent SO_2 emission limits restrict development of coal fields that have relatively higher	53. (Environment) The limits established for coal-fired thermal power plants are no more

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	sulphur content.	stringent than those set by the U.S. Environment protection Agency or Environment Canada. Along with the other Departments, Environment is lobbying for the use of low sulphur western coal in eastern Canada as a means of reducing acid rain emissions, as well as researching magnesium oxide scrubbers, promoting development and markets of Alberta coal.
	54. Excessive time required to review applications and issue Clean Air and Clean Water Licences.	54. (Environment) In most cases, Environment responds to industry's request for "fast track" approvals immediately. Usually, delays are well based and due to submission of incomplete applications by the proponent. Over the last few years, attempts have been made to streamline approvals and reporting requirements.
	55. Too many separate permits to construct and licences to operate are required.	55. (E.R.C.B.) This matter will be considered by joint review. (Transportation) Transportation's main incursion into permits involves utility crossings of roads. Quite often, the details of utility crossing, etc., are not designed at the time general approval is given. Must rely on procedure of defining these requirements at an early date in the approval process so that, with liaison, all concerns are met and the permit goes smoothly.
	56. Delays produced by required additional advertising for individual applications and for minor changes. Public hearings and additional advertisements only for those works not referred to in original plan should suffice.	56. (E.R.C.B.) This recommendation will be under joint review, as it seems constructive, providing the applicant can supply the required information in the mine or plant application to the E.R.C.B.
	57. Information required in applications not clear; Water Rights Branch withholds approvals because of water quality concerns. This	57. (E.R.C.B.) No single Department has the expertise or responsibility to address all issues, therefore conflicts do occur. Environment

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	overlaps with Standards and Approvals Division role.	considers the Water Management Plan Plan with respect to environmental matters; the Boards and Mines Inspection Branch review the same design features in regard to integrity of overall mine design and workers' safety.
	58. With respect to water-related issues, the review period is too long and criteria used for reviewing applications are unpublished. Conditions dictated by Fish and Wildlife Division are unrealistic.	58. (Environment) Joint task force will be reviewing the application process. Where the applicant feels conditions are too onerous, they can, and often do, present technical evidence to revise these conditions.
	59. Overlap in jurisdiction with Environment relative to plant-site pond design.	59. (E.R.C.B.) Jurisdictional overlaps will be considered in the joint review.
	60. Information requirements for Mine Licence Applications and Operational Exploration Programs vary from that stated in G-2 Guide.	60. (E.R.C.B.) G-2 is a guide and not the regulations. Information requirements for licences are limited to necessary information and, on a project-specific basis, are continually reviewed.
	61. Too many separate approvals required during development and licencing. Should consolidate approvals, pre-screen potential applications, reduce overlaps in jurisdiction, and increase power of field officers to issue verbal approvals.	61. Consolidation of approvals and overlapping jurisdictions will be addressed by the joint review. Pre-screening of potential applications is already done. Power of field officers has increased, but care should be practised with regard to their expertise, responsibility, and authority.
	Operations	
	62. Proposed Mine Safety Regulations are difficult to interpret, contradict existing Acts and Regulations, duplicate reporting, and are inconsistent with General Safety Regulations; several sections are not practical.	62. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division) The draft regulation was distributed to industry and labour to solicit their comments and observations. Currently, these comments are being reviewed by senior division personnel and the proposed regulation is being redrafted to reflect input received.
	63. Intent of Codes of Practice is unclear and information requested	63. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division) Meetings

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	duplicates that which is required by E.R.C.B. for licencing and permitting.	have been arranged with senior mine management and union representatives to clarify the intentions of codes of practice. Other meetings have been arranged with the E.R.C.B. to discuss ways to eliminate duplication of information required. (E.R.C.B.) Licence and permit applications are referred to OH&S by the E.R.C.B., eliminating duplication. Concerns on design by both agencies are co-ordinated in a single deficiency letter.
	64. The numerous reports and records that must be submitted, kept up to date, and available for inspection should be reduced.	64. (E.R.C.B.) The reports required by E.R.C.B. were established for good reasons and would be maintained by any good operator. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division) The proposed new "Mine Safety Regulation" will eliminate requirements for all but the most essential record-keeping requirements.
	65. Surface emergency resonse regulations are not appropriate for all situations.	65. (Wokers' Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division) The present and proposed requirements for surface emergency response allows maximum flexibility in emergency response planning.
	66. Spiralling costs and lack of W.C.B. accountability to industry manifests itself in several ways, such as inconsistent policy application and lack of industry consultation, etc.	66. (Workers' Compensation Board) The coal industry task force proposals that were supported are reflected in Bill 75, recently passed in the legislature, and will take effect January 1, 1985. The C.A.C. should await the outcome of the Act changes before making further comment at this stage.
	67. Operator must submit reports on a regular basis, even though detailed plans are initially	67. (E.R.C.B.) Reports are necessary; detailed plans prior to development do not always indi-

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
COAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (cont'd)	submitted to E.R.C.B. Mine Lease applications.	cate actual achieved production. First and third quarter reports are required as updates on the Mine Plan. Production statistics are necessary for various reasons, including significance measures. Register reports notify the E.R.C.B. and OH&S of changes in key management.
	68. Duplication of reclamation information submitted in reports to E.R.C.B. and Environment.	68. (E.R.C.B.) Both E.R.C.B. and Environment have responsibility for economic and effective reclamation and serve a consultative role to D&RRC.
	69. Electrical Marketing Agency must ensure cost of power is minimized since E.R.C.B. requires orderly and economic recovery of coal resources.	69. (E.R.C.B.) No conflict should exist. The Board and Electrical Marketing Agency ensure practical cost of power.
	70. Reclamation certification process not well defined and processing time is excessive.	70. Under review.
	71. E.N.R. position on allowing public access into mine sites conflicts with Mines Inspection Branch. Documented policy should be established.	71. (E.R.C.B.) The Board agrees in principle with this recommendation, but feels policy should be flexible. Joint review could consider this topic.
	72. Reporting conditions should be deleted from surface leases, as it duplicates reclamation reports submitted to Environment.	72. (E.R.C.B.) Could be considered by joint review.
	73. Excessive number of operating licences must be maintained and amended throughout life of a mine. "Significant" changes required amending of initial permits.	73. (E.R.C.B.) Since changes in design can affect workers' safety, coal recovery, and reclamation, these changes must be addressed and approved. "Significant" changes are generally handled quickly, without amendment of approval.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION Referred to: Labour Transportation Solicitor General Environment Education Manpower Energy Economic Development Occupational Health & Safety Div. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation) F.I.G.A. Municipal Affairs Legislative Counsel	1. The Industrial Wage and Security Act should be eliminated. Employers who hire contractors without retaining retaining holdbacks should be prepared to cover claims cost themselves.	1. (Labour) Eliminating this legislation would negatively impact on the employees, in the "Designated Industries" of coal mining and lumbering, as well as the Advanced Employment Standards Branch Compliance Program. The Act may be modified but not without defeating or weakening the intent of the legislation. (Economic Development) Employers should be prepared to cover claims cost themselves, but often legal action has to be taken to recover wages. Therefore, a legal means should be available to provide wage security to the employee. (Energy, & Natural Resources) We are required to obtain clearances before issuing a licence or permit and yet they do not protect the logging contractor - only the direct employee.
	2. The Labour Relations Act, Section 142, empowers the Labour Board to certify a union as bargaining agent for a company without a majority vote of current employees. This should be revised to require a majority of votes.	2. (Labour & Economic Development) This provision is intended to discourage contravention of the unfair labour practices sections of The Labour Relations Act. Any attempt to modify or eliminate portions of this section would destroy the intended effect and disrupt attempts to maintain equality by shifting the balance in favour of the employer.
	3. Highway Traffic Act, with respect to the log-hauling program, summer haul weight limits should be increased on public highways, truck permit issuance should be streamlined, dimensions and haul payloads in truck equipment should be more flexible, required routes should be reviewed on an individual	3. (Transportation & Economic Development) A sub-committee will meet on the site of the log hauls and bring recommendations back to a larger group consisting of appropriate government departments and association members. Due to implications on the many miles of highway pavement current summertime axle

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)	basis and more flexibility should be given with respect to bridge limits.	allowances cannot be increased. Cost of upgrading bridge structures for an increased gross weight of 56,000 kg (125,000 lbs.) is under current assessment. A major priority for the committee is the need to streamline some of the permit conditions.
	4. Department of Solicitor General Act. The Highway Traffic Patrol force in Alberta should be eliminated.	4. (Solicitor General) - Regular police forces must give priority to work other than motor carrier regulations. Hence, the Patrol is needed to give specific attention to these regulations. Duplication of checking by the various police forces is being discussed with the R.C.M.P. for resolution.
	5. Department of Environment Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Regulations related to Environmental Control and Stream Crossings need to be reviewed for duplication, excessive approval time, contradiction and cost on the industry.	5. (Environment) The licensee can meet with the Department's Pollution Control Division and come to terms with the exact procedure acceptable to both parties. All monitoring and reporting requirements serve to assess the environmental impact of the Plant. Current approach with respect to stream crossings with roads has streamlined the approval process and still maintains the objectives. Alberta Environment is also completing guidelines for other types of projects so that the approval process will be more effective.
	6. Woodsmen's Lien Act is redundant, outmoded and should be eliminated.	6. (Energy & Natural Resources) This Act protects employees of very small liens on harvested timber, if wages are not paid; it should not be eliminated.
	7. Department of Advanced Education and Manpower Act - Apprenticeship regulations should	7. (Manpower - Administering Dept.) The Apprenticeship and Trade Branch does not see the pneumatic to elec-

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	be reviewed to allow lawful restricted training and practice in "blocks" of proficiency trade areas in the future. (There is a need to regulate the Instrumentation trade, to avoid its becoming a proficiency trade.)	tronic change as having a bearing on the issue of compulsory certification. Investigations, generated by petitions from the industry or the general public, will precede any move for designation under Division 3. Cross-crafting of trades should be examined, with the possibility for the designation of a process operator trade specifically designed to meet the needs of the flexible production system.
	8. Forests Act - The integrated management planning process should be simplified, streamlined, and deadlined for completion or eliminated and the integrated planning section of the Department of Energy & Natural Resources should be made more accountable for work completion.	8. (Energy & Natural Resources) The Integrated Management Planning System, a government program, not a regulatory one, is being significantly accelerated and streamlined. The integrated planning section is necessary to ensure continued supply of timber resources and cannot be eliminated.
	9. Forests Act, Section 98 of the Timber Management Regulations Order-In-Council 309/73 and Amendments should be simplified to reduce preparation and justifi-cation time, cost and material presentation volume.	9. (Energy & Natural Resources) The planning process is required to assure all site-specific concerns have been addressed. The effort spent in planning will pay off in preventing future problems.
	10. Forests Act, Section 87, Timber Management Regulations, Order-In-Council 309/73 and Amendments should be simplified.	10. (Energy & Natural Resources) The Timber Appraisal System is already very simple and revised procedures are being developed to simplify it further.
	11. Forests Act with respect to scaling and weighing, Section 112, Timber Management Regulations, Order-In-Council 309/73 and Forestry Management Agreements should be simplified on a procedural basis so that a spot-check system is used and sampling intensity is reduced.	11. (Energy & Natural Resources) The reduction of weigh scale load sampling intensities has been an ongoing concern of the Alberta Forest Service. Intensities are set to the minimum number of samples which will provide volume estimates within provincial scaling standards. Normally less than 2% of the loads going into a mill are scaled.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)	12. Forests Act, Sections 123 to 137 of the Timber Management Regulations need to be reviewed mutually to allow practical flexibility whereby licensees and forest management holders can accomplish the intensive re-forestation of cut-over lands as their recognized responsibility. Suggest practical timeframes without Alberta Forest Service having to choose and approve treatment methods.	12. (Energy & Natural Resources) Without clearly established standards in a system of unbiased checks, it is impossible to determine whether or not cut areas are being properly reforested.
	13. Forests Act - Simplify the approval process for industrial roads construction to allow construction to proceed in a timely manner.	13. (Economic Development) Agree with the proposal.
	14. Forests Act, Sections 28-33 of the Timber Management Regulations should be revised so that harvest cutting inspection reports occur much less frequently - one inspection every two to three months on a spot-sampling basis should be sufficient.	14. (Energy & Natural Resources) The inspection of harvesting operations are required to ensure that they are being conducted in accordance with the Annual Operating Plan and to ensure the timber resources are being utilized fully. (Economic Development) We disagree with the suggestion that inspections are done too often, and should be done only every 2-3 months.
	15. Forests Act - Under Section 70 of the Timber Management Regulations, sawmill inspections by Alberta Forest Service personnel should be discontinued for those mills paying crown dues "stumpage" to the government on a weight basis of wood volume determination.	15. (Energy & Natural Resources) Inspections of weigh scale sawmills are already minimal. Occasional inspections cannot be eliminated as they are required to ensure wasteful practices are not occurring, thus timber resources will be fully utilized.
	16. Forests Act - Under Section 117/118 of the Timber Management Regulations, the use of Form TM9 should be eliminated for use by sawmills on shipments of lumber where government dues (stumpage) is paid on a wood weight basis.	16. (Energy & Natural Resources) Most of the operations in the province do not have weigh scales. The TM9, which is really a load slip or Bill of Lading, records the movement of timber and timber products. The TM9 assures: accuracy in volume, verification of company's monthly

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (Cont'd)		timber concerns, reporting on volume and amount of royalties to be paid to the Crown.
	17. Under Section 2-3 of the Forests Act and Section 104 of the Timber Management Regulations, a thorough review should be undertaken of the Alberta Forest Service Industry staffing regulations to allow the Industry to manage the forests where they have been assigned this responsibility. Reduced government involvement in planning, regulation and approvals is desirable. Government should serve a policing role on a spot-check basis only.	17. With respect to Alberta Forest Service Field Staff, all forest officers must have successfully completed technical training to qualify. Furthermore, all field officers have supplementary training in specialized areas.
	18. The Occupational Health & Safety Act, and the Workers' Compensation Act, should be reviewed in terms of conflict of responsibility withoutaccountability.	18. (Occupational Health & Safety) Specifics on conflicts between Occupational Health & Safety, Legislation and Commodity Transport are required before an appropriate reponse can be prepared. The new "General Safety Regulation" should remove possible conflicts or duplications. If there are any concerns with the new regulation, they should be directed to the Manager, Legislative Affairs, Occupational Health & Safety Division.
CANADIAN GAS PROCESSORS SUPPLIERS' ASSOCIATION		
Referred to: E.R.C.B. Environment Executive Council Energy & Natural Resources Economic Development Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs F.I.G.A.	1. The approval process for construction of gas processing facilities should be accelerated. Ministerial approval for those plants that are not deemed to be environmentally hazardous should be discontinued. A weighing or grading system should be developed that would eliminate certain approvals.	1. (ERCB, Environment) The only way regulatory delays are likely to be reduced for sour gas facilities is by demonstration to the public that the ERCB and Environment regulations and standards ensure impacts will be minimal. Recently, the Minister of Environment has agreed to exempt certain small sweet gas processing applications from the need for ministerial approval.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN GAS PROCESSORS SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION (cont'd)		ERCB agrees that further changes should be considered which would reduce the time for processing applications. However, Environment explains that delay - applications that take more than 60 days - results most often because of "incomplete information in the application and the need to request additional information." The ERCB and Environment are investigating several possibilities for change. (Economic Development) Economic Development administers only the Industrial Development Permit regulation and is not aware of any difficulties with the permit system.
	2. Concern is expressed with the need for Ministerial approval of plants larger than 10 mmcfd in size, and the resultant time delays.	2. Environment does not feel that Ministerial approval causes time delays. Normal turnaround is three days or less and the Deputy or designated alternate signs the Ministerial Approval.
	3. Streamlining of communication among government agencies (the Department of Environment) is needed.	3. (Environment) An isolated instance regarding a deficiency for information for solid waste disposal is apparently the basis for this statement. This did not result in withholding the issuance of approvals by the Department.
	4. Past practice of obtaining verbal permission to start construction should be reinstated.	4. Verbal permission, in the past, was granted for site cleaning and preparation. These activities were not considered part of construction. This practice was discontinued at the suggestion of ERCB gas department staff.
	5. Minor corrections (typographical errors or small deficiencies) now necessitate that the applicant file written deficiencies. This process results in delays and, thus, requires changes. In the past, corrections were dealt with by	5. (Environment) No application is required to correct typographical errors. Where these are identified "the department initiates the necessary correction and the applicant is not affected adversely."

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
CANADIAN GAS PROCESSORS SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	agreement and the paperwork was processed after the application had been approved.	
INDUSTRIAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA		
Referred to: Environment Agriculture Energy & Natural Resources	1. Green Area Permit System (i) late issuance of Green Area permits (ii) site specific mapping iii) Green Area permit expiry date (iv) spray width of right of way (v) restricted herbicide application vi) selection of product vii) notice of intent forms	1. (i) resolved. (ii) resolved with a 2 year trial period (iii) resolved (iv) Forest Land Use has agreed to issue letters of authority for 1984. A committee, consisting of Forest Land Use Branch, Trans Alta Utilities and Alberta Power Ltd., is being established to follow the concern through to resolution. (v)(vi) Resolved. If there is a difference of chemical and application methodology to be used, discussions will be held with the company to resolve the differences. (vii) resolved.
	2. Interpretation of product label instructions.	2. The labelling of pesticides is the responsibility of Agriculture Canada. The IVMAA should forward their concern to Agriculture Canada. Alberta Environment has already done so.
	3. Increased utilization of Agricultural Chemicals Advisory Committee. Proposed changes to legislations should be submitted to the Committee for comment prior to the Legislative Assembly.	3. All proposed amendments will be submitted to the Committee for comment.
	4. Of particular concern is the Agricultural Chemicals Amendment Act, 1984, Bill 2, currently before the Legislative Assembly.	4. The Agriculture Chemicals Amendment Act, 1984 has received royal assent.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
PETROLEUM ACCOUNTANTS SOCIETY OF WESTERN CANADA		
Referred to: Treasury Energy & Natural Resources F.I.G.A. Municipal Affairs Legislative Counsel E.R.C.B.	1. The Alberta Royalty Tax Credit application should be a one-time application, rather than a monthly application.	1. (Treasury) Due to requirements of the Auditor General with respect to internal control, this system cannot be changed at this time.
	2. The mechanism for reporting annual gas cost allowances should be simplified.	2. (Energy & Natural Resources) The Gas Royalty Administration project is aimed at simplifying and clarifying the administration of gas royalty. A recent study by Currie, Coopers and Lybrand, commissioned by Alberta Energy, has resulted in justification for a number of improvements to the system which are in the process of being implemented.
	3. Reporting of monthly "S" and "G" forms is inefficient. (i) timing and submission is rushed which results in amended forms (ii) amendments are received from various departments iii) disregard for error amendments (iv) APMC actual royalties are not being calculated (v) AENR should make calculation corrections and advise of adjustments to be made.	3. (Energy and Natural Resources, Energy Resources Conservation Board). ENR is in the process of designing a modified and simpler natural gas royalty reporting system. A new system to replace the existing "G" forms system is being addressed through the Gas Royalty Administration Project. A revised system could "provide the necessary relief to industry in meeting reporting deadlines".
	4. The approval time for the "NORP-SOOP" applications should be faster.	4. Energy & Natural Resources and the Energy Resourcesd" approval Conservation Board, in consultation with industry, are attempting to reduce the approval time for these applications.
	5. Concern is expressed with the timing after approval of NORP-SOOP applications.	5. (Energy and Natural Resources) Where the required information is provided, turnaround on NORP-SOOP applications for certification, averages two weeks. Delays occur because incomplete information is

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
PETROLEUM ACCOUNTANTS SOCIETY OF WESTERN CANADA (Cont'd)		provided by the producer (missing gas analysis), or because of the need to obtain technical evaluation from ERCB.
	6. The approval of permits for drilling construction and gas projects.	6. The Energy Resources Conservation Board and Industry are discussing a system which would incorporate the suggested steps for major applications and hearing procedures.
================ FINANCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS ================		
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE ADJUSTERS		
Referred to: Consumer & Corporate Affairs	1. Initiate changes which will streamline licencing procedures and yet maintain controls sufficient to protect the insuring public.	1. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) The recommendation has already been acted upon as the amendment to the Insurance Act has been passed subject to proclamation. The regulations are now being drafted.
	2. The issuance of an Adjuster's Certificate should remain with the Superintendent of Insurance.	2. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) No change is planned in the authority of the Superintendent of Insurance to issues Adjusters' Certificates as prescribed by statute.
	3. An Adjuster's Certificate should only be required by individuals who are adjusters, as per the definition contained in the Insurance Act. Others who are employed by a licenced insurer and working with claims should also be able to apply for and hold an Adjusters' Certificate once the necessary requirements are satisfied.	3. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) Adjusters employed by insurers and operating under the insurer's licence are not and will not be required to be licenced as adjusters.
	4. The requirements for an Adjuster's Certificate to be sponsored by a licenced insurer should be dropped.	4. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) The requirement is mandated by statute and is under study by the Department in consultation with the Canadian Independent Adjusters

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE ADJUSTERS (cont'd)		Conference and the Standing Committee of Insurance Agents, Brokers and Adjusters of the Association of the Superintendents of Insurance of the Provinces and Territories of Canada.
	5. The charging of a fee for the Adjuster's Certificate should remain with the Superintendent of Insurance.	5. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) Payment of the prescribed fee for an Adjuster's Certificate is a statutory requirement. No change is planned.
	6. Three categories for adjuster's licences should be approved: "Adjuster Trainee", "Adjuster", and "Nominee".	6. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) The Superintendent of Insurance has established two steps of licencing adjusters: "Adjuster Trainee" and "Adjuster". The Department is giving consideration to the Association's proposal for the third step.
	7. Recommend certain qualifications for Adjuster's Licences. (I) Replace the present examination required for an Adjuster's Certificate of Authority with a 70% passing grade upon completion of the course "Introduction to General Insurance" as offered by the Insurance Institute of Canada. (II) An adjuster should be licenced upon proof of a minimum of two years experience in claims adjusting and the successful completion of eight Institute courses of the Insurance Institute of Canada. (III) A nominee should be licenced when proof is given of a minimum of five years' experience in claims adjusting and the Designation of Associateship in the Insurance Institute of Canada or equivalent academic standing acceptable to the Board.	7. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) We have no objections to the recommendations. Many of the examination requirements are already in place; probationary periods can be written into the licencing regulations which are now being re-drafted.
	8. The establishment of a Board of Review is recommended. The Board will consist of 6 annually appointed representatives from A.A.I.A.	8. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) The Superintendent of Insurance will be willing to cooperate with industry's self-discipline board

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE ADJUSTERS (Cont'd)	(Alberta Association of Insurance Adjusters), C.I.A.C. (Canadian Independent Adjuster's Conference) and C.I.C.M.A. (Canadian Insurance Claims Managers Association). The Board will review licencing standards and adjusters qualifications. Appeals to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs will be made through the office of the Superintendent of Insurance.	in establishing and implementing the Adjuster's Code of Ethics.
	9. Recommend that a notice period of not less than 2 years be given prior to enactment of any of the preceding recommendations. The Grandfather clause should contain the suggested provisions for maintaining and designating the title of "Adjuster" and "Nominee". Those to whom the provisions do not apply, or have been out of the claims industry for more than 2 years, would be required to meet with the new licencing regulations.	9. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) The Superientendent's Policy has already established a Grandfather clause for staff adjusters employed by insurers who decide to become independent adjusters. We have no objection to the recommendations of the Association and are awaiting the recommendations of C.I.A.C.
INSURANCE BUREAU OF CANADA Referred to: Housing Public Works, Supply & Services Transportation Environment Legislative Counsel F.I.G.A. Municipal Affairs Solicitor General	1. Development of a new labour and material bond form.	1. In process of being implemented by Public Works, Supply & Services.
	2. Uniformity in policy on bonding and holdbacks.	2. In process of being implemented by Public Works, Supply & Services.
	3. Repeal of the Public Works Act. Appropriate amendments to the Builders' Lien Act would provide an acceptable alternative to the Public Works Act.	3. Public Works, Supply & Services, through a committee on bonding holdback and the Public Works Act, is soliciting written briefs from the surety and construction industry and will make recommendations to changes in the Public Works Act by June 30, 1984.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
MANUFACTURING & WHOLESALE TRADE ORGANIZATIONS		
ALBERTA WHOLESALE IMPLEMENT ASSOCIATION Referred to: Consumer & Corporate Affairs Agriculture Treasury F.I.G.A. Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs Attorney General	1. Variable rate financing of equipment sales to farm, ranch, or feedlot operators should not be prohibited.	1. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs, F.I.G.A.. Treasury) The Credit and Loan Agreement Act is under review. Bill 56, The Credit Transactions Act, is a proposed replacement act.
	2. The Farm Implement Board membership should be reviewed to provide a more effective balance.	2. The Department of Agriculture favours maintaining the Farm Implement Board's membership as it is. (Representatives from P.I.M.A. and A.W.I.A. are able to bring the views of "short-line" and "main-line" wholesalers to the Board.)
	3. The procedure for a company to take security interest in equipment supplied to a dealer should be streamlined, such as has occurred in Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. These provinces have converted to the Personal Property Security Act.	3. (Attorney General) Some streamlining has occurred; although there has been no change of law, the vehicle registry and the central registry were grouped administratively under the Personal Property Registry. The Attorney General's office is building up a data base for conversion from paper filing to computer base.
	4. Manufacturers' Liens must be made available, in order to assist suppliers. It is a supplier's right to equipment that he has supplied to a dealer.	4. Under review.
	5. Suppliers require more protection against receiverships and bankruptcies.	5. This issue falls within Federal jurisdiction.
	6. High costs are incurred in advertising finance programs. There exists the need to review the justification for a separate ad program for Alberta. This regulation inhibits a national program thus escalating costs.	6. Consumer and Corporate Affairs has informed the association that existing credit advertising sections of the Alberta Credit and Loans Agreement Act are being reviewed (Bill 56).

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA WHOLESALE IMPLEMENT ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	7. The new implement act has not adequately defined the term "reasonable". At present, this term leaves many points open for interpretation.	7. The department of Agriculture explained to the association that the Farm Implement Board favours a general definition of the term "reasonable" as used in the current Farm Implement Act. This definition allows for "greater flexibility in the interests of all parties concerned."
HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM ORGANIZATIONS		
ALBERTA HOTEL ASSOCIATION Referred to: A.L.C.B. Tourism & Small Business Treasury Advanced Education Manpower Solicitor General Labour Social Services & Community Health Municipal Affairs F.I.G.A. Legislative Counsel Agriculture Energy & Natural Resources Public Lands & Wildlife	1. Regulations should be incorporated in the government legislation. Regulations will then be a matter of record and could be easily located and adhered to.	1. (Regulatory Reform Secretariat) With few exceptions, regulations are published public documents and available in printed form. However, what may not always be available to a business operator is Department or agency policies with respect to how an Act or regulation is to be administered. The Economic Affairs Committee would like to be advised of instances where these policies go beyond what is set out in the Act or Regulation.
	2. Restrict, to the barest possible minimum, the indiscriminate issuing of regulations.	2. The Speech from the Throne on March 15, 1984, emphasized the Alberta Government's commitment to this principle.
	3. Regulations may be issued indiscriminately. Departments give little consideration to outside opinion, it is solely the official in charge that determines regulatory criteria.	3. Alberta regulations are scrutinized and discussed by members of Cabinet or Caucus, before approval is given by the Cabinet. This process allows members to assess regulations on those they will affect. (Regulatory Reform Secretariat).
	4. Legislation, itself, should provide the rules for the operation of hotels and beverage rooms.	4. (Regulatory Reform Secretariat) Broad policy is contained in Statutes, and not in regulations.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA HOTEL ASSOCIATION (cont'd)		Regulations should only set out the details that are necessary to achieve the objectives of the Statute.
	5. Alberta Liquor Control should not be privatized.	5. The Alberta Government is reviewing suggestions that the private sector be permitted greater involvement in the wholesale and retail distribution of liquor products. The concerns of trade organizations and individuals will also be considered.
	6. The 7% surcharge on liquor purchases is an unfair tax and should either be removed or charged as a license fee, so that all licensees in the province are required to pay the 7%.	6. The purpose of the Regulatory Reform Secretariat is to consider proposals that relate to regulatory problems. The Association's comment that Government licence fees are "unfair" has been discussed with the A.L.C.B.
	7. The Association was not consulted by the A.L.C.B. or the government about the innovation of the "happy hour". "Happy hour" does nothing but encourage drinking and adds a burden of cost to the operator.	7. (A.L.C.B.) The permission to have "happy hour" was granted in 1983 at the request of members of both the Alberta Restaurant and Food Services Association and the Alberta Hotel Association, as well as non-members. It is not clear how this "adds a burden of cost to the operator" if the effect has been to encourage drinking and hence increase liquor sales.
	8. The complete deregulation of the size of the pour of liquor makes for industry confusion. It is difficult for the operator to ensure that his customers receive the proper amount of liquor for which they are paying.	8. The quantity of liquor served was not totally deregulated. There is still a requirement to state (on the menu, or on a posted sign) the quantity of liquor served in mixed drinks. Greater flexibility in the size of the pour of liquor is the result of requests from operators. This flexibility, for example, allows for the sale of shooters or coolers which might require a different quantity of alcohol than standard highballs. The operators concern that his customers receive the proper amount of liquor seems to be a management question for the operator to resolve, rather than an issue for the government.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA HOTEL ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	9. Liquor License Regulations, AR 362/80, Section 22(2). The regulations should be amended so that dining lounges in a hotel or motel are permitted to sell liquor in a regular-sized bottle to hotel guests.	9. (A.L.C.B.) This change has now been made.
	10. Liquor License Regulations AR 362/80, Section 23(1). Section 23(1) is ambiguous. Who is to designate where tourist areas are? Tourists visit all areas. Thus, all licensed dining lounges, not just those located in national parks or tourist areas, should be permitted to sell liquor without meals from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.	10. The Alberta Hotel Association wishes to retain the legislation which requires that meals be served in a dining lounge, if liquor is also to be served. (T. & S.B.) The A.L.C.B. believes that there is little demonstrable public need to turn dining lounges into lounges after 9:00 p.m., given the large number of drinking establishments already available through the province.
	11. Liquor License Regulations AR 362/80, Section 64. Section 64 should be maintained.	11. Both the A.L.C.B. and T. & S.B. believe that this regulation should be retained.
	12. Sunday drinking in a licensed hotel lounge should be permitted. The lounge should be allowed to serve cocktails between 12 noon and 10:00 p.m. to any registered guest.	12. (A.L.C.B.) Provision has very recently been made to allow "manager's lounges" for use of registered guests in hotels. Sunday liquor services, T. & S.B. believes, should be allowed in all lounges, and not be restricted to hotel guests.
	13. Beer and wine should not be permitted to be sold in grocery stores.	13. (Regulatory Reform Secretariat) The Government has received suggestions on this issue representing a variety of views, including small grocery store operators and members of the public. The Alberta Hotel Association may be assured that its concerns will also be considered if any change in the sale of beer and wine is contemplated.
	14. Employment Standards Act, Section 53.2(a) and (b) should be amended to require that the employer be given the same notice to termination as the employer has to	14. There are both advantages and disadvantages to the Association's suggestion of reciprocal notice of leave. The Department of Labour is considering the impact of this

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA HOTEL ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	given to the employee (reciprocal notice of leave).	change on the worker and for the workplace. The Regulatory Reform Secretariat suggests that this increase in regulation of the marketplace is of no benefit to employers.
	15. Employment Standards Act, Section 44 (a) (i), and (ii) should be amended so that the requirement to pay overtime at 2.5 times the hourly wage is reduced to an amount at least equal to the average daily wage of the employee.	15. The request for exemption from holiday pay requirements, at this time, is not favoured by the Ministers of Tourism and Small Business and Labour. Such an exemption would treat employees in affected services differently than most other employees and, it would seem, less favourably.
	16. The section of the Election Act which prevents the sale of liquor in electoral boundaries until a poll has been closed should be deleted.	16. (Solicitor General) In 1980 the Alberta Government considered this provision in the Election Act, and decided to leave the requirements unchanged. The provincial election day provisions, however, will be reviewed once again by the Government, in the near future.
	17. Federal legislation preventing hotels from serving game meat or any meat of a different origin than beef, pork or lamb, etc. should be revised.	17. (Social Services & Community Health) The serving of game meat falls within provincial jurisdiction. In accordance with the requirements of The Wildlife Act and Meat Inspection Act, a hotel may serve game meat. (Energy & Natural Resources - Public Lands & Wildlife) The Definition of Wildlife Regulation exempts the plains bison from The Wildlife Act. The plains bison is not classified as wildlife for the purposes of this Act. Under review, by the Fish and Wildlife Division, is a proposal to permit hotels and/or restaurants to purchase big game or game birds from game farms for resale. This would provide a more viable source of game meat for hotel use and avoid the threat to wildlife populations associated with "market hunting".

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA HOTEL ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	18. The autonomy of health unit inspectors cause disparity in rulings throughout the province.	18. (Social Services & Community Health) This issue was addressed by the Provincial Board of Health. The Board acknowledged the problem of inconsistent interpretation of Regulations. In an attempt to deal with this problem the Board is in the process of initiating two new programs, in addition to two already existing programs, which will go further to provide consistency in enforcement of Regulations.
ALBERTA RESTAURANT & FOODSERVICES ASSOCIATION		
Referred to: Legislative Counsel Social Services & Community Health Labour Tourism & Small Business A.L.C.B. Solicitor General F.I.G.A. Municipal Affairs Executive Council	1. The restaurant industry is an important segment of Alberta's economy. As such, the government should facilitate its growth, not limit it.	1. (Social Services & Community Health) The Provincial Board of Health has made revisions with input from the A.R.F.A. to the proposed new Food Regulation, endeavouring to simplify and update the regulations. Consultation with the Association would be sought again before final passage of the revised Food Regulation.
	2. Too many regulations are subject to interpretation by the enforcing personnel. Rules for operation need to be clearly defined. Greater liaison and more input from the industry is suggested.	2. (A.L.C.B.) Rigid regulations or policy guidelines would not permit "stretching" of regulations to suit a particular design or functional requirement. Most A.L.C.B. policy guidelines are written and available upon request. The A.L.C.B.'s response time to requests for changes in the regulations is short and every effort is made to include requested changes. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) On July 28, 1981, licencing requirements were removed, as it was unnecessary for our Department to regulate the restaurant industry.

ASSOCIATION		PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED		RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA RESTAURANT & FOODSERVICES ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	3.	Suggest reciprocal notice of leave made available to employers in the industry as a proposed amendment to the Employment Standards Act.	3.	(Labour) If the Employment Standards Act is modified as suggested both the employer and the employee might be negatively impacted. The proposed amendment to the Employment Standards Act would not resolve the concerns outlined by the Association. (Tourism & Small Business) It would not be reasonable to withhold wages in a case where proper notice is not given. Therefore the regulation should remain as it is presently & worded.
	4.	Holidays and general holiday pay should include Subsection V with Exemption of Employees of restaurants, hotels and visitor information Services.	4.	(Labour and Tourism & Small Business) The suggested amendments would seem to treat employees in affected services less favourably than others. A goal of the government is to encourage a vigorus Tourism and Service Industry to offset these labour costs.
	5.	A.R.F.A. recommends changing the current name of Alberta Liquor Control Board to Alberta Liquor "Licencing" Board, to remove the negative connotation of liquor as reflected in the "controlling" regulations. Lieutenant Governor in Council should designate the Minister of Consumer & Corporate Affairs as the Minister responsible for the mandate promoting development intervention.	5.	(A.L.C.B.) The authority to licence, with its concurrent right to suspend or revoke a licence, carries with it a controlling mechanism which would not change regardless of which Ministry the Board reported to. A.R.F.A. does not suggest how "consumer safety and protection would be continued" if the "control aspect" were removed. A.L.C.B. has the dual responsibilities of marketing beverage alcohol and controlling certain aspects of its resale.
	6.	Regulation 69 "A licensee shall in his licenced premises make available to customers price lists approved by the Board". The prices should not be controlled by the A.L.C.B.; the operator should have the freedom to establish his own price and profit margins.	6.	(A.L.C.B.) The regulation was amended in 1983 in accordance with this recommendation. As a service, licencing administrators review a licensee's initial price list with him to discuss any apparent problems, but licencees are no longer required to submit price lists for approval.
	7.	It is recommended that the requirement for board approval in advertising and signage, directly or indirectly indicating a licenced establishment, be struck from the	7.	(A.L.C.B.) For a number of yers, the Board has not enforced the approval of advertising requirements. The A.L.C.B. is prepared to consider a repeal of Section 17.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA RESTAURANT & FOODSERVICES ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	regulations. Licensees should be allowed to promote special activities like "Happy Hours", use promotional aids (like special menu inserts, etc.) to publish specials, and to package food and drink prices in special promotions.	Advertising of "Happy Hours" is restricted to within the licenced room and on signs outside the premises, provided the signs do not quote prices. This arrangement has been acceptable with various directors of the A.R.F.A., and any further advertising of "Happy Hours" could be considered direct promotion of consumption which is prohibited by Sectin 92(1) of the Liquor Control Act. The Board has concern with any move to advertise and offer liquor price discounts beyond the "Happy Hour" concept.
	8. Recommend that the Liquor Control Act be amended to allow liquor manufacturers to advertise on table ten cards, menu inserts and restaurant decor items which can be distributed to licensees for use in licenced premises.	8. (A.L.C.B.) This recommendation requires major changes to the Act and is not a move the Board would recommend. However, the Board advised the Association that the restriction against the supply of tent cards by liquor manufacturers will not be enforced. (Tourism & Small Business) Where possible, the industry should be able to display liquor products in more creative ways. Expansion of the regulation should be allowed.
	9. Recommend an amendment to Section 72(1) of the Liquor Licence Regulation to exclude lounges, thus permitting their operation on Sundays and holidays.	9. (A.L.C.B.) The Board is considering a proposed amendment to accommodate service in a hotel lounge to registered guests of the hotel between 12:00 noon and 10:00 p.m. on a Sunday. The proposal is specifically designed to accommodate tourists staying in hotels. General operation of strictly drinking establishments involves the area of The Lord's Day Act. Lounge operation on Sunday was considered by Legislature in 1980 and clear consensus to maintain the status quo was obtained.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA RESTAURANT & FOODSERVICES ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	10. Recommend deleting Section 130 of The Election Act preventing the sale of liquor within the electoral boundaries until the poll has been closed.	10. (Solicitory General) This recommendation was considered by government in 1980 and, at that time, it was decided to leave it unchanged. It would be the Solicitor General's intention to ask the Caucus to consider these election day provisions and other possible liquor-related amendments in the near future.
	11. Recommend amending Section 23(1) of the Liquor Control Act Regulation to allow all dining lounges to sell liquor without meals from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., except on Sundays.	11. (A.L.C.B.) The recommendation is viewed as unnecessary, given the establishments throughout the Province. The dining function tends to suffer in an establishment catering to two types of patrons, those that wish to dine and those who wish to drink.
	12. Regulation requiring Board approval of food and meal menus offered by licensees should be deleted, from Liquor Control Act Regulation.	12. (A.L.C.B.) This section is enforced only when an operator makes an initial application for a liquor licence, as a method of ascertaining whether the location qualifies as a full dining lounge or restaurant licence. Once the liquor licence is issued, the licensee is not asked to submit any further food menus.
	13. Requirement of approval from A.L.C.B. of the physical layout of licenced premises should be deleted as it duplicates regulations found in the Alberta Building Code, the Fire Code and Alberta's Health Regulations, and promotes "sameness" of design.	13. (A.L.C.B.) The Board examines a set of plans to ensure that the seating maximums are not exceeded, kitchen and washroom facilities are conveniently located, and the class of licence being applied for is appropriate. The Board makes no attempt to duplicate efforts of the other agencies, but does, however, cooperate with the agencies to ensure premises proposed for licensing conform to fire, health and Board requirements. The Board does not agree that "sameness" in design results, given the existing diversity of decor and layout.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA RESTAURANT & FOODSERVICES ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	14. The Requirement for dining lounge and restaurant licencees to derive at least 40% of their revenues from food sales should be dropped from the regulations. Current market conditions, such as resistant marketplace, liquor costs rising faster than food costs, and trends make this ratio very difficult to maintain.	14. (A.L.C.B.) Discussions with licensees over the years indicate that there is no problem to maintain a 40% minimum revenue from food sales. This method is an established criterion for measuring whether a dining lounge licensee is truly operating a food facility. Breakfast and lunch patrons should offset the evening patrons' effect on the ratio.
	15. Should delete the 7% surcharge that is levied on all liquor except beer, purchased by the licensees with the exception of club, canteen institution and special event licencees. The surcharge should be replaced by a 7% discount on their purchases.	15. (A.L.C.B. & Tourism & Small Business) The 7% surcharge is a licencing fee. Large licensees pay a higher licence fee than smaller operators. Elimination of the surcharge would lead to the same fee charged to smaller operators which would be termed unfair by smaller operators.
	16. Recommend the elimination of the the A.L.C.B.'s monopoly on sale of liquor. The monopoly results in competition to private industry and conflicts of interest.	16. (A.L.C.B.) Liquor stores provide a different service at a different time than do licenced dining lounges and restuarants, so this is not a competitive factor.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
RETAIL ORGANIZATIONS		
MOTOR DEALERS' ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA		
Referred to: Agriculture Consumer & Corporate Affairs Education Public Works, Supply & Services Transportation Solicitor General Workers' Health, Safety & Compensatio (OH&S Division) F.I.G.A. Municipal Affairs Legislative Counsel Manpower	1. The procedure to obtain vehicle lien information should be simplified.	1. (Attorney General) The computerization program for registering vehicles is in its final stages. Upon implementation the computerization proposal should meet the needs and rectify the concerns of the association.
	2. The association is concerned with the vehicle registration process (leased vehicles), "vehicles write-offs", and identification of the lien holder on vehicle registration forms.	2. (Solicitor General) As a result of the meeting between Senior Officials of the Motor Vehicles Division and the Motor Dealers' Association on December 5, 1983, these concerns were resolved.
	3. The Department of Manpower should provide better communication with the industry on the apprenticeship program.	3. (Manpower) Manpower has agreed to provide more effective communication. All Apprenticeship Branch staff are being alerted to the association's concern and notified that they are to ensure regular communication with individual dealers and association officials.
	4. Concern is expressed with the Unfair Trade Practices Act.	4. (Consumer & Corporate Affairs) The only specific concern expressed by the association relates to subsections 4(1)(d)(xx) and (xxi) of the Act. The department considers these subsections to be worthwhile. Thus, only in the event that the association can satisfy Consumer and Corporate Affairs that "the vast majority of automobile leases are for business, as opposed to a consumer purchase", will the department modify its position.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
MOTOR DEALERS' ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (cont'd)	5. The Credit and Loan Agreements Act needs to be revised to allow for more flexibility.	5. (Consumer and Corporate Affairs) This Act is presently being reviewed for possible major changes in 1984. The credit advertising section will be addressed to attempt to alleviate some of the association's concerns.
	6. Mandatory use of seat belts and child restraint seats.	6. (Transportation) This is a matter for the consideration of caucus as a whole. The Association's views will be considered, among others.
	7. The association supports the prohibition of motor dealers from opening their places of business on Sunday.	7. (Attorney General) The views of the association are on record and will be considered as final policy when the whole question of Sunday opening is resolved.
	8. Supports a compulsory Bond Program for dealers.	8. Under review.
	9. Concern with fleet subsidies.	9. Under review.
	10. Dealers should be allowed to tender on vehicle purchases made by the Provincial government.	10. (Public Works, Supply & Services) For bulk or individual purchase plans, it is the department's intention to permit the maximum possible opportunity for local and regional automobile dealers to participate in the tender process.
	11. The association advocates the endorsement of a joint submission, along with other associations, to the Select Committee.	11. (Workers' Health, Safety & Compensation - OH&S Division) This matter is currently being dealt with by the Select Committee.

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATIONS		
ALBERTA SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION		
Referred to: Transportation Solicitor General Legislative Counsel Municipal Affairs Education Consumer & Corporate Affairs	1. Public Service Mobiles Act, Regulation 6.3.1. The limit for insurance as described in this section should be increased to a minimum of $1,000,000 for all sizes of buses and to a minimum of $5,000,000 for injury or death to all persons involved as a result of any one accident.	1. The Motor Transport Board has proposed increasing the minimum amounts set out in the regulation and is currently soliciting views from industry.
	2. Public Service Vehicles Act, Regulation 6.9.1 should be revised, so that all traffic on highways travel at a uniform speed.	2. The Minister of Transportation has initiated procedures to modify this regulation in line with the association's request. Revised regulations were operative September 1, 1984.
	3. Public Service Vehicles Act, Regulations 6.16.1 and 6.18.1. The oil and bath air cleaners should be eliminated and replaced with paper filters, which are safer. The former are a fire hazard.	3. The regulation is to be deleted in favour of the Canadian Standards Association standards for school bus construction.
	4. Public Service Vehicles Act, Regulation 6.16.4 (b). The word "emergency" should be replaced with the words "holding brakes", as buses are now equipped with dual braking systems.	4. The terminology will be modified to reflect the association's desires.
	5. Municipal by-laws should not override regulations and laws. The ASBCA desires uniformity for school bus operations.	5. (Transportation) The department will continue to discourage the imposition of employer rules and/or municipal bylaws. Uniformity is the department's objective, however, it will take time to bring this about.
	6. Public Service Vehicles Act, Regulation 6.16.7 (b) does	6. (Transportation) This regulation is to be deleted in favour of

ASSOCIATION	PRINCIPAL CONCERNS EXPRESSED	RESPONSE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT
ALBERTA SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (cont'd)	not require a muffler on a school bus. This regulation is obsolete and should be deleted, since most areas have noise pollution by-laws which prohibit straight pipes.	the Canadian Standards Association standards for school bus construction, which requires a muffler on all school buses.
	7. Regulations under the Motor Transport Act should comply with the Highway Traffic Act.	7. The Motor Transport Act and the Highway Traffic Act are under review, one reason for this is to remove ambiguities and contradictions between the two statutes.
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION Referred to: Education Municipal Affairs Solicitor General Legislative Counsel Transportation	1. Various changes should be made to the Public Service Vehicles Act and the Highway Traffic Act: (i) The eight (8) light system of alternating lights should become mandatory in Alberta. (ii) The ambiguities which exist in the interpretation of procedure for the use of flashing lights should be dealt with. ii) The "stop arm" device should be made mandatory for all school buses (iv) Mandatory minimum amounts of liability and passenger hazard insurance should be increased. (v) Public Service Vehicles Act 6.9.1. Speed limits should be increased to 100 km/h on any primary highway and 80 km/h on all other highways. (vi) Public Service Vehicles Act 6.16.7(b) and Highway Traffic Act Section 46(6 should be amended to ensure that all school buses be equipped with a muffler.	1. All of the sections of the Public Service Vehicles regulations noted by the association will be transferred to the Highway Traffic Act during its next revision.

CHAPTER 6

A BRIEF HISTORY OF REGULATORY REFORM IN ALBERTA

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
REGULATORY REFORM IN ALBERTA

(1) This Chapter contains a brief history of Regulations in Alberta, together with a few details about the emphasis that the Alberta Government is now giving to simplifying and reducing regulatory procedures.

(2) Alberta, like all Parliamentary jurisdictions, has a great many Regulations in force. The opinion of legislative draftsmen and others is that their actual volume in Alberta is probably somewhat less than the volume of similar instruments in most other major Canadian jurisdictions. However, this is a subjective judgement, for it is difficult to make an exact comparison between jurisdictions, without making a detailed Regulation by Regulation comparison, which, of course, has never been done.

(3) A complete official consolidation of Regulations was last made in 1957, and all earlier Regulations were then repealed. There were numerous subsequent amendments in the following years, and perhaps no consistent philosophy about the purpose or use of Regulations.

(4) There has been interest in Alberta in improving the process of making and reviewing Regulations for some ten years and considerable progress has been made.

(5) In 1973, a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly was appointed to study the question, invite submissions from the public, and make recommendations to the Assembly. This committee was chaired by Mr. Rudolph Zander, then M.L.A. for Drayton Valley, and it became known as the Zander Committee.

(6) Its members travelled to Quebec City, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, and Ottawa, and held hearings in Calgary and Edmonton. In November 1974, it submitted its Report. (This Report, which is available in the Legislature Library, contains an interesting summary of the development of regulations and statutory instruments in Parliamentary jurisdictions.)

(7) The Government gave this report detailed consideration and on May 1, 1978, the Government formally responded. The response was in the form of a Ministerial Statement (the text of which appears in Chapter 5) by the Honourable Graham L. Harle, M.L.A. for Stettler, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Chairman of the Cabinet's Legislation Review Committee. He had also been a member of the original Zander Committee.

(8) The Government accepted most of the basic recommendations of the Zander Committee and the policy set out in the Ministerial

Statement has formed the basis for the Regulation-making procedures now in place.

(9) An important result has been the development of a "Drafting Style Manual for Acts, Regulations, and Order-in-Council" by the Legislative Counsel office. The manual also provides a procedural guide for the steps in the approval process.

(10) Perhaps most significantly, the Government, through the Legislative Counsel office, has involved itself in a complete consolidation of all existing Regulations. Although this procedure is assisted by the technology of the 1980's, with a computer-based word-processing system, it will take at least two more years to complete. The mechanical consolidation is merely the starting point for a thorough review of each Regulation by the Department officials and Minister involved, as well as a further review by a Cabinet Committee before each new consolidated Regulation is approved by Order-in-Council. Because of this review process, the current consolidation will be more thorough than that of 1956, which was more a mechanical consolidation of the Regulations and amendments then on the books.

(11) Although the Zander Committee Report and the responding Ministerial Statement did not emphasize "deregulation" per se, the effect of the whole review and consolidation process has been one of simplification and the elimination of old and unnecessary regulatory provisions.

(12) Regulatory reform, however, cannot be achieved in isolation from other jurisdictions. An agreement was reached at the February, 1978 First Ministers' Conference on the Economy that "the burden of government regulation on the private sector should be reduced and the burden of overlapping federal and provincial jurisdictions should be eliminated." The First Ministers decided that "the whole matter of economic regulation at all levels of government should be referred to the Economic Council for recommendations for action, in consultation with the provinces and the private sector." The Economic Council of Canada released its final report, entitled "Reforming Regulation", on June 11, 1981. No discussion of the Economic Council's recommendations has taken place at subsequent first Ministers' Conferences on the Economy.

(13) More recently, the Government has given more specific priority to the need to actively work to reduce the burden of regulatory requirements and procedures that affect both businesses and individuals in Alberta.

(14) The Premier and all Ministers have asked their Department officials to be aware of the need to simplify and reduce regulatory procedures in all areas of Government activity. The Government believes this initiative reflects the feelings of the public, and it is also consistent with the Government's own need to conduct its own activities with an increased consciousness of operating costs.

(15) The Government's commitment to this principle was emphasized in the Speech from the Throne on March 15, 1984, as follows:

> A government-wide effort is being made to reduce or eliminate unnecessary or obsolete regulations which frustrate or complicate the lives of our citizens, as well as the operations of businesses - some of which will lead to legislative proposals for the Assembly.

(16) In order to address regulatory problems, the Economic Affairs Committee of the Government Caucus (under the Chairmanship of R. Keith Alexander, M.L.A. for Edmonton Whitemud) has established a forum to hear views on the regulatory activities of the Government and the impact of these activities upon the private sector. A small secretariat has also been established to assist with this work, and liaison has been established with officials in all Government departments.

(17) Over the past several months, letters have been sent to some 300 business and trade associations in Alberta, requesting their views. As responses are received, they are circulated to the relevant Government departments and agencies for item-by-item review and action. As part of this process, this Committee may hold a round-table meeting with representatives of the Association and officials from the regulatory agencies to further discuss the Association's concerns. This Committee has emphasized that if regulatory problems are to be addressed, it is most important that members of the business community and individual citizens make the Government aware of specific problems.

(18) Concurrently, several Ministers have been aggressively working within their own Departments to reduce the regulatory burden. For example, the Hon. Marvin Moore, Minister of Transportation, has re-organized the Motor Transport Board, and is in the process of greatly simplifying the regulations that govern commercial trucking. Other Ministers have taken similar initiatives.

(19) The submissions received to date by the Committee from the business community suggest that there is often more concern about the way the Acts or Regulations are administered than with the Acts or Regulations themselves. Ministers and senior officials are addressing this problem as well. For example, a recent staff circular entitled, "Improving the Public Image of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation," pointed out that, "A growing segment of the farming public believe that some of us have lost sight of the fact that we are here to serve - and have become, instead, more inclined to regulate and control."

(20) Some of the initiatives towards a more light-handed regulatory approach are directed at the public at large, not just the business community. An excellent example is the new "Good Host" policy of the provincial Park Ranger staff, which covers many aspects of Provincial Park operations, including the enforcement of regulations governing the activities of Park visitors. The

policy directs the staff to encourage compliance with necessary Park regulations and to avoid, wherever circumstances permit, the "law enforcement" approach based on prosecution, particularly for minor transgressions.

(21) In addition to the work of consolidating existing Regulations, the Legislative Counsel office has been asked to identify those that are obsolete. On May 30, 1984, an Order-in-Council was passed, repealing 227 old and obsolete Regulations. Several dozen other old regulations have also been repealed in recent weeks, and this process is continuing.

(22) Thus, the Government of Alberta fully accepts the need to review and simplify regulatory procedures, and its efforts to do so will continue.

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C H A P T E R   7

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX (A)
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
MAY 1, 1978

This Ministerial Statement was made in the Legislative Assembly on May 1, 1978, by the Honourable Graham L. Harle, then Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and (together with the attached Appendix) is the Government's response to the report by the Zander Committee.

ALBERTA REGULATIONS

The Alberta Government has had under review the Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly on Regulations (Chairman, Mr. Rudolph Zander, M.L.A.) established May 10, 1973, and which reported to the Legislative Assembly in November 1974.

The Government established some time ago a procedure for handling the preparation of regulations which appears to be working well. That procedure is as follows:

(a) When a Minister has approved in principle a proposed regulation, a draft must be sent to the Legislative Counsel Office for a legal check and drafting revisions as required.

(b) That before presenting draft regulations of a substantive nature to Cabinet, the proposed regulations be considered by at least one of the Standing Cabinet Committees.

(c) That a Cabinet Committee should not consider any proposed regulation unless it has been checked by the Legislative Counsel Office.

(d) That all Ministerial Orders of a substantive nature must be dealt with by an appropriate Standing Cabinet Committee for approval before they are filed with the Registrar of Regulations.

The Government has accepted most of the recommendations of the Report, and the following accepted recommendations should be highlighted:

1. Whenever possible before final drafting of regulations, all regulation-making authorities should make every effort to engage in the widest feasible consultation with those directly affected.

2. That an adequate indexing system be established for statutes and regulations including a subject matter or topical indexing system.

3. That specific policy directives, which relate to the meaning, intent or operation of regulations, issued in writing by a Minister for the guidance and direction of the Department, be readily available for public inspection and that copies of such directives be provided at reasonable cost on request.

4. That the Government instruct the Legislative Counsel Office to proceed with the work of preparing an adequate consolidation and revision of all Alberta Regulations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Alberta Regulations: Detailed Statement of Policy
Appendix to the Ministerial Statement

In detail, the Government accepts the following recommendations of the Select Committee:

No. 1 That the Alberta Regulations Act be amended to provide for a more complete and all encompassing definition of a "regulation".

No. 2 That upon enactment of a new Alberta Regulations Act, there be an examination of all matters falling within the new definition of a "regulation" to determine whether any or all of those matters require filing as regulation. (Recommendation #2 is therefore accepted in part.)

No. 3 That all regulation-making authorities be familiar with the basic guidelines as set out in the McRuer report for drafting of regulations:

(a) "They should not contain provisions initiating new policy, but should be confined to details to give effect to the policy established by the statute.

(b) They should be in strict accord with the statute conferring power, particularly concerning personal liberties.

(c) They should be expressed in precise and unambiguous language.

(d) They should not have retrospective effect unless clearly authorized by statute.

(e) They should not exclude the jurisdiction of the courts.

(f) They should not impose a fine, imprisonment or other penalty.

(g) They should not shift the onus of proof of innocence onto a person accused of an offence.

(h) They should not impose anything in the way of a tax (as distinct from fixing the amount of a licence fee, or the like).

(i) They should not make any unusual or unexpected use of delegated power.

(j) General powers should not be exercised to establish a judicial tribunal or administrative tribunal."

No. 4 That, wherever possible, all matters intended to be dealt with by regulations under an enabling statute should be listed by subject matter in the regulation - making empowering clause, and further that the Legislative Review Committee of

Cabinet review the reasons for any regulation-making section which does not list subjects to be dealt with by regulations.

No. 7 That all who draft or have cause to interpret regulation-making empowering clauses should be acquainted with the following principles:

(a) "The precise limits of the law-making power that the Legislature intends to confer should be defined in clear language.

(b) There should be no power to make regulations having a retrospective effect.

(c) Statutes should not exempt regulations from judicial review.

(d) Only the Lieutenant Governor in Council be given authority to make regulations having substantial policy implications.

(e) There should be no authority to amend statutes by regulation.

(f) There should be no authority to impose by regulation anything in the nature of a tax (as distinct from the fixing of the amount of a licence fee or the like). Where the power to charge fees to be fixed by regulations is conferred, the purpose for which the fees are to be charged should be clearly expressed.

(g) The penalty for breach of a prohibitory regulation should be fixed, or at least limited by the statute authorizing the regulation.

(h) The authority to make regulations should not be granted in subjective terms.

(i) Judicial or administrative tribunals with powers of decision on policy grounds should not be established by regulations."

No. 8 That draftsmen should be mindful of the following principles:

(a) "Wherever possible a statute should list exhaustively the matters for which regulations may be made;

(b) These matters should be itemized in the empowering section of the statute;

(c) The use of a general empowering regulation-making clause should be avoided; where this is not possible, the regulations made under such a clause should be the subject of constant review and consideration in terms of a possible amendment to the Act to add such a matter to the itemized list of subjects under the empowering section of the statute;

(d) Exceptions to the above should only be permitted in new areas of legislative administration and only then until such practices have been determined in these areas at which time consideration should again be given to the previously mentioned principles".

No. 9 That before final drafting of any regulation all regulation-making authorities should make efforts to engage in the widest feasible consultation with those directly affected. (This is a slight modification of Recommendation No. 9 of the Select Committee).

No. 13 That there be a compiling of a form and draftsmanship manual for circulation to all regulation-making authorities.

This manual was prepared in 1971 by the Legislative Counsel Office and has since been extensively revised and reissued in August 1977. It is presently in use throughout the public service. The Government recommends that this manual be periodically reviewed and updated by the Legislative Counsel Office.

No. 14 That regulations continue to come into force and effect on the date of their filing.

No. 18 That the Queen's Printer should become the central agency for the distribution of all legislation, primary and subordinate.

No. 19 That the Queen's Printer maintain a reasonable supply of back copies of the Alberta Gazette, Part II.

No. 20 When the revision of the regulations is completed, that a complete set of the Alberta Gazette, Part II be readily available to anyone expressing a desire to receive them. (This is a modification of recommendation No. 20 of the Select Committee).

No. 21 That the distribution of the bimonthly publication of the Alberta Gazette be increased to all public libraries, municipal corporations and every branch of the various government departments expressing a desire to receive same. (This is a modification of recommendation No. 21 of the Select Committee).

No. 22 That the present indexing system to the Alberta Gazette, Part II is inadequate and that a subject matter or topical index system together with a statute title index system should be prepared for all Alberta regulations.

No. 23 That a subject matter or a topical index and a statute title index system should be prepared for all Alberta legislation.

No. 24 That consideration should be given to putting the afore-described indexing systems on computer.

No. 25 That all office consolidations of regulations be authorized for printing by the Legislative Counsel Office, and that departments facilitate the availability of office consolidations by continuously monitoring the need for office consolidations and by making early requests for printing through the Legislative Counsel Office. (This is in substitution for recommendation No. 25 of the Select Committee).

No. 26 That a notice be printed, stamped or attached to the front page of statutes, or attached to the statute, to the effect that regulations may have been made under the statute which may need to be taken into consideration when reading the statute. (This is in substitution for recommendation No. 26 of the Select Committee).

No. 27 That office consolidations of regulations and statutes be reprinted after any substantial number of amendments have occurred.

No. 29 That wherever possible Departments prepare explanatory pamphlets of topics that span more than one statute, particularly on those topics which are administered by more than one Department. (This is in substitution for recommendation No. 29 of the Select Committee).

No. 30 That regulations made by Order in Council or Ministerial Order continue to be readily available to the public through the Queen's Printer or the appropriate Department of Government and that certified copies of the original be available from the Registrar of Regulations; and that specific policy directives, relating to the meaning, intent, or operation of regulations, issued in writing by a Minister for the guidance and direction of the Department, be readily available for public inspection, and that copies of such directives be provided at reasonable cost on request. (This is in substitution for recommendation No. 30 of the Select Committee).

No. 32 The Government instructs the Legislative Counsel Office to proceed with the revision and consolidation of all regulations.

In detail, the Government rejects the following recommendations of the Select Committee for the reasons stated:

No. 5 The Government believes that greater harm could be done and more uncertainty created by providing for lapsing of regulations in the manner proposed.

No. 6 The Government believes that the scrutiny of proposed regulations by Cabinet Committees and the Legislative Counsel Office meets the intent of this recommendation.

No. 7(d) The Government does not agree with this recommendation. The Government believes that as such independent bodies are subject to the Legislature, sufficient legislative control already exists.

No. 10 The Government does not accept the recommendation of the Select Committee that proposed regulations accompany a new Bill introduced in the Legislature, as such has never been historically required because the legislation must come first and the regulations later. However, the Government may outline proposed regulations with a new Bill where appropriate.

No. 33 to 41 The Government believes that the present system of scrutiny of proposed regulations by Cabinet Committees and the Legislative Counsel Office before such regulations receive approval by Order in Council meets the concern expressed by the Select Committee.

Further, the Legislative Assembly may refer any regulation to the Standing Committee of the Assembly on Law, Law Amendments and Regulations, and such reference may be made by a resolution moved by any member of the Assembly.

No. 11 The Government believes that this is a duplication of intent of Recommendation No. 9.

No. 12 The Government believes that this is a duplication of intent of Recommendation No. 9.

No. 15 & 16 The Government believes that this is a duplication of intent of Recommendation No. 9.

No. 17 The Government does not agree with this Recommendation because of the uncertainty which would be created by a "lapsing".

No. 28 The Government does not agree that office consolidations should be sanctioned by legislation.

No. 31 The Government believes that a municipality should be responsible for keeping its own record of By-laws and Resolutions passed by it.

Graham L. Harle
Minister of Consumer
and Corporate Affairs

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APPENDIX (B)
PROGRESS SURVEY
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
JUNE 27, 1984

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The following outline was included with the request for information made by the Chairman of the Caucus Committee on Economic Affairs to all Ministers, in order that this Progress Survey could be prepared. The responses from Departments and Agencies are contained in Chapter 4 of this volume.

PROGRESS SURVEY ON REGULATORY REFORM
OUTLINE OF MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED

(1) The outline sets out some of the questions Departments and Agencies are asked to include in preparing material for the Survey.

(2) The Progress Survey is intended as a report to the public, as a follow-up to the Government's commitment, in recent years, to deregulate and simplify. This commitment was reiterated in the Speech from the Throne, March 15, 1984, which stated.:

> A Government-wide effort is being made to reduce or eliminate unnecessary or obsolete regulations which frustrate or complicate the lives of our citizens, as well as the operations of businesses - some of which will lead to legislative proposals for the Assembly.

(3) It is hoped that this Survey will demonstrate that concrete progress is being made, by way of specific information.

(4) Time period.

- (a) Annual survey. The report will focus on the year ended June 30, 1984.
- (b) Prior years. As this is the first such survey, please also mention significant accomplishments in prior years.
- (c) Future plans. If you have deregulatory objectives which have not yet been realized, they may be mentioned under this heading.

(5) Scope. The concept of regulatory reform or deregulation should be broadly interpreted as referring to regulatory statutes, Regulations, and regulatory procedures. From the point of view of the citizen or businessman, it does not matter where or how regulatory activity is authorized — he must comply with it all the same.

(6) Deregulatory initiatives. Please outline specific actions taken that result in reduced regulation, reduced reporting requirements (reduced paper burden). Advantages which are not self-evident (including savings in Departmental costs or positions) may be noted.

(7) Inter-agency co-operation. Note where greater co-operation has been achieved between agencies to reduce multiple regulation of the same activity, or provide a better "one window" service. Consider both (a) co-ordination between Alberta Government agencies, and (b) co-ordination between Alberta and federal, other provincial, or municipal agencies.

(8) Bills and Regulations (for which you are responsible). For the year ended June 30, 1984, please itemize each Bill which appeared on the Legislature Order Paper and each "substantive" Regulation (or amendment) which was approved, and comment on the deregulatory aspects of same.

(9) The attitude of regulatory officials. Some of the problems that have been raised by members of the private sector suggest that there is often more concern about the way regulatory requirements are administered than with the requirements themselves. Please note any action taken to address this concern.

(10) Increased regulatory activity. If any regulatory activity has increased (either under an old procedure, or as a result of introduction of a new procedure), please provide details.

Thank you for your assistance.

R. Keith Alexander, M.L.A.
Chairman, Economic Affairs Committee

June 27, 1984

APPENDIX (C)
"SCREEN OF NECESSITY"
QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is used by the Regulatory Reform Project when asking departments and agencies to comment upon submissions received. The basic questions may also be used in other contexts.

REGULATORY REFORM PROJECT
SUMMARY SHEET FOR DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

This form is for your convenience. These questions may also be discussed in a memorandum.

BRIEF RECEIVED FROM:
(Association or Individual)

RESPONDING DEPARTMENT:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE:

DATE:

REGULATION or ACT or REGULATORY PROCEDURE:

IS THIS PROCEDURE NECESSARY? IF YES, PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN.

HOW CAN IT BE MODIFIED OR AMENDED? HOW WOULD THE MODIFICATION ADDRESS THE CONCERN EXPRESSED IN THE BRIEF?

(continued)

CAN THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROCEDURE BE MET IN SOME OTHER WAY? (For example, by an educational program, or by relying instead upon the regulation already undertaken by some other agency? Or would market forces provide sufficient check?)

IF THIS REGULATORY PROCEDURE IS MODIFIED OR ELIMINATED, WHAT PROBLEMS MIGHT DEVELOP?

Thank you for your assistance.

Regulatory Reform Project
8th Floor, Sterling Place
427-9611